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RJS

Schweers Historical Foundation, Inc.
2405 South IH-35
New Braunfels, TX 78130-6817
(830) 625-6680

*Received
1/10/05*

January 10, 2005

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, NW Suite 500
Case Control Unit
Washington, DC 20423

Attn: Rini Ghosh
STB Docket No. FD 34284

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

I am the current President of the Schweers Historical Foundation, Inc. that has a membership of 187 and growing. We are particularly interested in the four homes built by the children of Schweer and Zeda Balzen in the mid 1850's. All are still restorable. Willie Schweers died suddenly and while a small group of us were trying to contact his Estate to buy the Henry Schweers home for restoration, we found that Vulcan Materials had already placed a purchase contract on the two properties. We then offered to purchase it from them. They then offered to donate both homes to us if we would form a 501(c) 3 tax exempt organization; the William Home has been donated, the Henry Home will be donated after the railroad issue is settled. Vulcan has been very generous with our Foundation, and upon further investigation we find that Vulcan Materials is highly regarded in other communities where they operate. Forbes and Fortune has rated them at number eight in social responsibility.

I have reviewed the three volume draft of the Environmental Impact Statement, and attended and spoke at both sessions at the public hearings held in Hondo on December 6, 2004. I met and spoke with you at that public hearing. Your group and others involved in the analysis of the routes, has done a thorough and commendable job. We strongly feel the preferred route is the best solution for their transportation needs. The no action alternative that would force the transportation of the material by truck is absolutely the worst possible solution. I know that your group will be fair in your analysis, and won't let emotional appeals bias your decision.

I currently live in the city of New Braunfels and sit on the board of the New Braunfels Industrial Development Corporation. If this opportunity to attract a major corporation of Vulcan Materials stature presented itself here, I would suspect that we would offer any incentive available to lure this company to our community. Any socially responsible company such as Vulcan Materials that would potentially bring one hundred and fifty above average salaries, and several million dollars of property investment, would be considered an economic windfall to any community.

Please feel free to contact me for further comments regarding this situation. My e-mail address is cr.schoch@sbcglobal.net and my mobile phone number is 830-708-2977. Thank you for the opportunity to consider my position on this matter.

Sincerely,

C. Ray Schoch,
President