

EI - 20101

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Post Office Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

Rec'd 1/25/13

JAN 09 2013

Mr. Robert A. Wimbish
Counsel for West Michigan Railroad Company
Baker & Miller PLLC
Attorneys and Counsellors
2401 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20037

Dear Mr. Wimbish:

Thank you for your letter of December 18, 2012, regarding the West Michigan Railroad Company's potential abandonment of 10.67 miles of rail line located in Van Buren County, Michigan. Also enclosed was the Consolidated Environmental and Historic Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historic effects.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the Michigan State office reviewed the environmental assessment related to the prime farmland. We concur with the West Michigan Railroad Company's conclusion that the proposed abandonment will not contribute to a loss of prime farmland.

Again, thank you for contacting NRCS, and for the opportunity to comment. If you have additional questions on this matter, please contact Garry Lee, State Conservationist, NRCS, 3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 250, East Lansing, Michigan 48823-6321; telephone: (517) 324-5270.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Weller".

Jason A. Weller
Acting Chief

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer