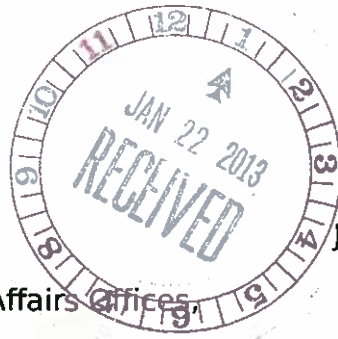




EL- 20100



David

January 14, 2013

Dear Transportation Board and other Governmental Affairs Offices,

As a resident of Lake Cora and as acting Secretary on the Lake Cora Corporation Board, I felt the need to express my concerns about the proposed trail and abandonment of Rail Service STB Docket No. AB-1107X:

If the public use and offers of financial assistance is allowed, the trail will cut across and be located in a position that will allow the public using the trail to easily access the Lake properties and now private beach areas. This trail would allow hikers, walkers, bike riders, or anyone to be so close to people's homes on Lake Cora that they could see into their windows and jump off the trail for a quick swim or wade in the water. Can you imagine the Law Suits if a drowning occurs as a result? How will you stop them from that kind of temptation in the summer months? We can also see a problem with maintenance of the trail and the probable littering offences to the residents that own their Lake homes. If trespassing on the Lake properties occurs on a frequent basis, it will be necessary for people to contact the State or Local Police on a frequent and regular basis. The temptation for the public to become thieves and break into storage sheds several feet from the trail will be a problem as well as the boats and other Lake items being there for the taking. I'm not sure that the Railroad owners have noticed how many Lake Properties this trail would effect. Can you imagine going down to your private beach for a swim, boat ride, or swim and having to watch strangers go by on the trail and wonder if they will cause any problems with their behavior as they pass by? It was one thing when people were contained within the cars of a train, but this is an entirely different way to pass through people's properties. Wouldn't it be more beneficial to offer the railway lands to the local Lake Cora residents and sell that property so that along with a profit from the sale, you could maintain and add to the property values of the Lake Cora residents? Please consider this as an option and save our precious properties on Lake Cora that we have worked so hard to keep so beautiful, clean, and special to Van Buren County in Michigan.

PLEASE don't allow this encroachment on our privacy on Lake Cora to occur. If financial assistance is allowed for this project, it will likely encounter more problems than the Railroad and County now envisions. Please encourage the sale of property to surrounding land owners of the Railroad, rather than a public trail and spend tax dollars on the destruction of people's privacy and values of PRECIOUS Lake frontages that these tax payers have worked and saved most of their lives for. Some of these areas have historical value and have been passed down through generations. They would roll over in their graves if they knew that just anyone could pass through their sacred Lake property, possibly and most likely without the same respect and love that ownership allows.

Sincerely and concertedly,

*Karen Christensen*

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