

EI-18305

September 14, 2010

Danielle Gosselin
Environmental Filing FD 35116
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Draft EIS
RJ Corman Railroad Company Petition

Dear Ms. Gosselin:

I am writing in regard to the RJ Corman Railroad Company's petition to reconstruct and operate a 20-mile section of rail line between Wallacetown, Pennsylvania and the Gorton area of Centre County, PA. I have reviewed the Executive Summary of the draft Environmental Impact Statement and agree that the modified proposed action should be pursued. **I fully support the RJ Corman Railroad Company's proposal to reconstruct the rail line.**

I have now been a resident of the Philipsburg area for almost twenty years. I have been working in community and economic development for twenty-nine years. One of the difficulties that we face in creating new employment opportunities is the lack of a four-lane highway in our immediate area, and the lack of rail service. State government officials provide us leads about companies wanting to locate in Pennsylvania but we are unable to respond to most leads because of two reasons: we lack existing buildings of over 100,000 square feet, and, we lack rail service. I am very excited by the RJ Corman Railroad Company's proposal to reestablish rail service in our region because the existence of this rail line will give us an opportunity to submit proposals to companies exploring the establishment of their businesses in this area of the state.

Another major issue that we deal with here on a daily basis is the thousands of trucks that move through the Philipsburg community on a daily basis. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has documented the large number of truck movements through the area on State Routes 322, 53, 504, and 350, all of which converge in the tiny borough of Philipsburg. We need to be doing everything that we can to reduce the volume of truck traffic in our area and the RJ Corman Railroad Company's proposal will provide us an opportunity to do just that.

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I am hopeful that the Surface Transportation Board will rule in favor of the RJ Corman rail line reconstruction proposal. When weighed against all other options, it is clearly the best option. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stanley M. LaFuria", written over the printed name.

Stanley M. LaFuria
Executive Director

SML
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