

EA-26318

Wood, Diana

From: Michael Connor <mjconnor_rr@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2018 7:38 PM
To: Wood, Diana
Subject: Comments re Docket AB 55 (Sub-No.779X)

Ms Wood

In re the proposed (by CSXT and no other entity) abandonment of the Newton Falls Subdivision in Ohio, Docket AB 55 (Sub-No. 779X), significant community pressure is building in opposition to this proposed abandonment. In addition to the probable increase in dangerous pollution-emitting truck traffic as even more freight is diverted to highways this railroad serves 28-miles of rail-front property which can provide a significant opportunity for economic development.

I would further note that President Trump has proposed a significant Transportation Infrastructure Program, albeit with details to follow. If, as many expect, freight and passenger rail will be part of this Economic Stimulus, it is counter-productive, nay, foolhardy, to be tearing up railroad track before the effects of the President's program on the Newton Falls Subdivision can be determined. Certainly, the potential delay in scrapping this 14 +/- mile line, if the application were ultimately approved, would have no significant impact on the profitability of CSXT and will permit alternate rail operators to emerge.

I think you owe the citizens of the Newton Falls Subdivision territory a reasonable time period to prepare and implement a positive rail-retention solution.

Please contact me if I can offer further input.

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