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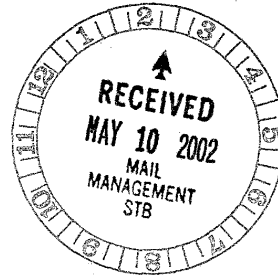
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May 10, 2002

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



Re: Docket No. AB-534 (Sub-No. 2X),
Lake State Railway Company --
Abandonment Exemption -- Rail Line in
Alpena and Presque Isle Counties, Michigan

Dear Mr. Secretary:

By decision in the above-referenced proceeding served December 18, 2001, the Board extended the period for negotiations between Lake State Railway Company ("Lake State") and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources ("MDNR") regarding interim trail use/rail banking through May 12, 2002. Because those negotiations have not yet concluded, Lake State hereby requests a 180-day extension of the negotiating period set forth in the Board's December 18, 2001 decision. Lake State and the MDNR are continuing their negotiations and hope to complete an agreement within 180 days.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Andrew B. Kolesar III
An Attorney for Lake State
Railway Company

cc: Mr. Hector Chiunti
Mr. Lyle A. Tolfree

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Office of the Secretary

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