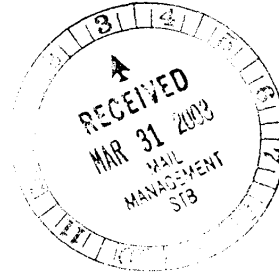


CARROLLTON BANK

March 24, 2003

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



RE: Docket No. AB-103 (Sub-No. 15) *207485*
Kansas City Southern Railway Company – Adverse Abandonment – In St.
Clair County, IL and
Docket No. AB-849 *> 207486*
Gateway Eastern Railway Company – Adverse Abandonment – In St.
Clair County, IL

Dear Mr. Williams:

It has come to my attention that the Illinois Department of Transportation has filed an adverse abandonment application with your office. I am writing to you, both as a professional and as a public citizen, in opposition to IDOT's proposal. As a member of the agricultural community of Carrollton, IL, I understand the importance of agriculture and the effects it has on our local economy. This proposal would have the greatest negative impact on our local grain elevator, Carrollton Farmers Elevator Company. By having no economical access to various grain markets, Carrollton Farmers Elevator Company would not be able to offer grain bids to local farmers at a level competitive with those of other markets. Thus, farm income to both the individual farmer and Carrollton Farmers Elevator Company would be drastically reduced. This reduction would have a significant impact on our local area, as well as our county and state. Before making your final decision, I would ask that you review IDOT's application and consider its effects on our local economy.

Sincerely,

Scott L. Rhoads
Vice President

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

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Public Record

Cc: Mr. Thomas J. Healey, The Kansas City Southern Railway Company
Mr. William A. Mullins, Troutman Sanders LLP