



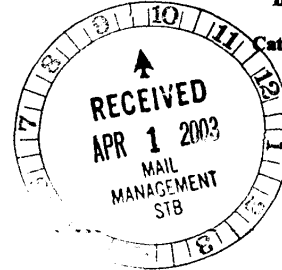
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## Lee County Development Authority

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Director  
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March 19, 2003

The Honorable Vernon Williams  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street NW  
Suite 715  
Washington, DC 20423-001

Re: Docket No. AB-389 (Sub-No. 1X), Petition To Vacate a Notice of Interim Trail Use or Abandonment

Dear Secretary Williams:

I wrote a letter of support on February 3, 2003 for the reactivation of rail service between Albany and Sasser for Georgia Southwestern Railroad. Our Industrial Park is located within a quarter of a mile from the abandoned rail bed. Since the letter, I have had a tremendous amount of retail and commercial interest in the surrounding property. At this point, we would like to ask for a 40-day extension on your decision so that we can investigate the economic and transportation impact of the potential new rail service. This region of Lee County is expected to see unprecedented retail growth. The Development Authority is interested in studying the mixed-use land arrangement between the industrial and commercial growth, while also looking at how rail service may hinder or help that growth. An additional 40 days would allow us to investigate this further.

Please call with any questions or comments, and thank you in advance for your time.

Best regards,

  
Brad Lofton  
Executive Director

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