

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

207496-AB-103-15
207497-AB-849

CAPITOL OFFICE:

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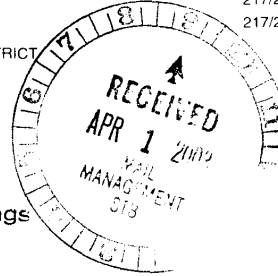


Jim Watson

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 97TH DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE:

224 WEST STATE STREET
P.O. BOX 160
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Perfor
Public Record

March 25, 2003

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

Dear Honorable Williams:

The Illinois Department of Transportation has filed an adverse abandonment application with the goal of condemning Kansas City Southern Railway Company. This action will put a business in my District, Carrollton Elevator, at such a competitive disadvantage that the entity may well go out of business. Please see the enclosed letters from the elevator and the Greene County Board.

Apparently, an arbitrator granted Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis rights to a ¾ mile of track, which will hurt KCS, thus hurting the Carrollton Elevator. During the negotiations process all railroads agreed that no entity would receive an enhancement as a result of this project. However, should this adverse abandonment application be accepted, Terminal Railroad will most certainly be the recipient of an enhancement at the expense of KCS.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

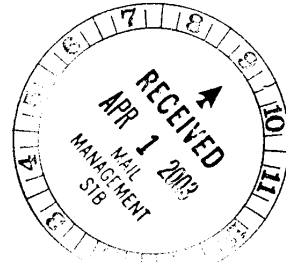
Jim Watson
State Representative
97th District

Cc: Mr. Thomas J. Healey
Mr. William A. Mullins
Mr. Chris Howard
Mr. Joe Nord
Mr. Doug Wagner

JW/aal



CARROLLTON FARMERS
ELEVATOR COMPANY
P.O. Box 264
Carrollton, IL 62016
Bus (217) 942-6922



March 24, 2003

Representative Jim Watson
224 W. State Street
Jacksonville, IL 62650

RE: Docket No. AB-103 (Sub-No. 15)
Kansas City Southern Railway Company—Adverse Abandonment-
-in St. Clair County, IL and
Docket No. AB-849
Gateway Eastern Railway Company—Adverse Abandonment-
-in St. Clair County, IL

Dear Representative Watson:

The above-referenced matter regarding the “adverse abandonment application” filed by the Illinois Department of Transportation has recently come to my attention. Approval of this action would condemn Kansas City Southern Railway land and tracks, therefore, eliminating our access for transportation of our grain. As Manager of The Carrollton Farmers Elevator, in Greene County, Illinois, I am writing to strongly oppose this action. Time is of the essence in this matter, as **April 1, 2003**, is the deadline.

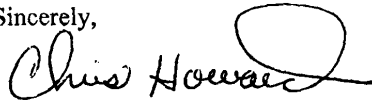
I have written to The Honorable Vernon A. Williams, Secretary of the Surface Transportation Board, expressing our concern and opposition to this matter, but now I am also asking for your help. We believe if you could research this “matter,” you would see that our concerns are genuine.

This action would not only affect us, The Carrollton Farmers Elevator Co., as a business, but would also considerably affect our area patrons, our employees, and other businesses in the county. The rail service of Kansas City Southern Railway has kept our Co-op viable for many years. Without their service, our ability to compete, and even to stay in business could possibly be jeopardized.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Thomas J. Healey, Associate General Counsel for The Kansas City Southern Railway Company, at 816-983-1392.

I am asking that you please give your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Howard". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Chris Howard, Manager
Carrollton Farmers Elevator Company
P. O. Box 264
Carrollton, IL 62016
217-942-6922

cc

COUNTY RESOLUTION**RESOLUTION NO.**

A resolution opposing any action by the United States Surface Transportation Board that would adversely impact the provision of rail service by The Kansas City Southern Railway Company or Gateway Eastern Railway Company in Greene County.

WHEREAS, The Kansas City Southern Railway Company and the Gateway Eastern Railway Company (collectively, "KCS") are the only rail carriers providing single line rail service for certain companies located in Greene County for access to East St. Louis, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the economic viability of Greene County is highly dependent upon the ability of rail shippers to access KCS single line rail service between Greene County and East St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, Greene County is already in economic distress; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Transportation ("IDOT") is seeking adverse abandonment of KCS's rail lines in St. Clair County, Illinois, en route between Greene County and East St. Louis, with the United States Surface Transportation Board ("STB"), pursuant to STB Docket No. AB-103 (Sub-No. 15) (filed February 14, 2003) and STB Docket No. AB-849 (filed February 14, 2003); and

WHEREAS, the abandonment of KCS's rail lines in St. Clair County would eliminate KCS's ability to provide single line rail service between Greene County and certain companies located in East St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of KCS's ability to provide single line rail service between Greene County and East St. Louis would adversely impact the viability of rail shipping in Greene County; and

WHEREAS, the rail shipping industry and rail shippers comprise a vital part of Greene County's economy; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of KCS's ability to provide single line rail service between Greene County and East St. Louis would severely reduce agricultural income, curtail business development and sustainability, increase the unemployment rate, and reduce the asset value of cooperatives in Greene County and neighboring counties; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of KCS's ability to provide single line rail service between Greene County and East St. Louis would further depress the distressed economy in Greene County and neighboring counties; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of KCS's ability to provide single line rail service between Greene County and East St. Louis would pose major adverse impacts in Greene County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Greene County Board of Commissioners strongly opposes any action by the STB authorizing IDOT's adverse abandonment of KCS's rail lines in St. Clair County, Illinois, recognizing such adverse abandonment as detrimental to Greene County's economic welfare

Adopted this 24 day of March, 2003 by the
Board of Greene County Commissioners

Joseph Noel
Marjorie H. Hines
Don Roberts
[Signature]

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Charlie Helting
[Signature]
E. Lynn Allen

ATTEST:

[Signature]
, County Clerk