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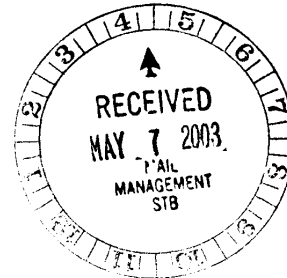
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May 7, 2003

Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1924 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001



**Re: Finance Docket No. 34040 – Riverview Trenton Railroad Company –
Petition for an Exemption from 49 U.S.C. 10901 to Acquire and
Operate a Rail Line in Wayne County, MI**

Dear Mr. Williams:

On May 5, 2003, a letter from Michigan State Senator Raymond Basham, dated April 15, 2003, appeared in the Board's file in this proceeding regarding Riverview Trenton Railroad's ("RTRR") Petition for Exemption. Senator Basham's letter alleges that "an open public corruption case may become intertwined in this matter."

The letter – without evidence and without any basis – accuses RTRR of engaging in some undefined criminal behavior. The false and outrageous nature of Senator Basham's statement demands this denial. This defamatory statement, as much as anything, demonstrates that there are no lengths to which the local communities will not go in their opposition.

RTRR's representative immediately contacted Senator Basham to request both an explanation and a retraction of the statement. To date, neither has been received.

RTRR stands ready, willing and able to respond to any inquiries the Board might have.

Sincerely,

J. William Koegel, Jr.

David H. Coburn

Counsel for Riverview Trenton Railroad Company

JWK/lpc

cc: All Parties of Record

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