



City of Pearson

P. O. Box 295

Pearson, Georgia 31642

912-422-3397 Fax: 912-422-3393 Email: pearson_ga@planttel.net

Ellie Morris, Mayor - Dorsey Thigpen, Clerk

October 15, 2003

Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC 20423

Re: STB No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 640)

Protest of Line Abandonment by CSX Transportation, Inc.
between Pearson and Waresboro

I am filing this protest on behalf of:

City of Pearson
P. O. Box 295
Pearson, Georgia 31642.

(1)

The City of Pearson is opposed to the abandonment of the portion of CSX Transportation, Inc. line known as a portion of its Southern Region, Jacksonville, Division extending from railroad milepost AP 594.69 near Waresboro, Ga., to rail milepost AP 617.94 near Pearson, Ga. which traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Codes 31552, 31564, 31624, and 31642 a distance of 23.25 miles in Atkinson and Ware Counties, Ga. The line includes the stations of Waresboro at approximately milepost AP 595.5, and Pearson, milepost AP 617.94.

(2)

Our citizens, businesses, business owners, and employees of the businesses will be adversely affected by the abandonment of the above mention section of rail line. The abandonment of the above mentioned rail line precludes the most advantageous mode of transportation for businesses located within the City of Pearson to receive bulk raw materials for processing and/or finished goods for distribution.

"You're invited to stay for a day or a lifetime."



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The adverse economic impact on our citizens, businesses, business owners, and employees of the businesses will place an undue hardship on their quality of life and will jeopardize their existence.

(3)

In addition, it is clearly evident that the abandonment of the rail line from railroad milepost AP 594.69 near Waresboro to railroad milepost AP 617.94 near Pearson will be particularly detrimental to the realization of the City of Pearson long term goals and community development plan as evidenced by our Comprehensive Plan that is registered with the State of Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The impact on our rural community development and planning will be damaging as our future directly ties in with rail accessibility within the corporate limits of the City of Pearson.

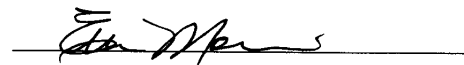
(4)

In addition, the terminus of the rail line at Pearson, Georgia provides direct access between the ports of Savannah, Ga., Brunswick, Ga., Jacksonville, Fl., and the Marine Corps Logistics Supply Base located at Albany, Ga. For national security, civil defense, and homeland security reasons the terminus located at Pearson, Ga. is the nearest railroad terminus to the above mentioned ports so that Marine Corps supply base can ship logistical supplies anywhere in the world that they are needed and in the most timely manner.

(5)

A valid offer to purchase the section of rail line has been made by the St. Marys Railroad Company, P.O. Box 520, St. Marys, GA 31558.

For the above enumerated reasons, I oppose the abandonment of the line of railroad extending from railroad milepost AP 594.69 near Waresboro, Ga. to rail milepost AP 617.94 near Pearson, Ga. this 15th day of October, 2003.



Ellie Morris, Mayor

City of Pearson

"You're invited to stay for a day or a lifetime."

cc: Natalie S. Rosenberg, Esq.
CSX Transportation, Inc.
500 Water Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 359-1253

cc: Louis E. Gitomer, Esq.
Ball Janik LLP
1455 F Street, NW., Suite 225
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 638-3307

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on October 15, 2003, I served the foregoing document, Protest of Line Abandonment by CSX Transportation, Inc. between Pearson and Waresboro, STB No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 640), by overnight united parcel service on the following:

Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC 20423

Natalie S. Rosenberg, Esq.
CSX Transportation, Inc.
500 Water Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Louis E. Gitomer, Esq.
Ball Janik LLP
1455 F Street, NW, Suite 225
Washington, DC 20005




Dorsey Thigpen,
City Clerk
City of Pearson