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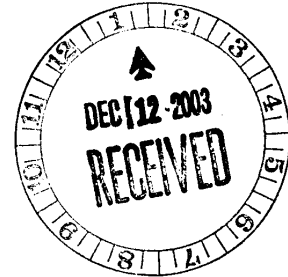
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December 12, 2003

VIA HAND DELIVERY - RETURN COPY

Hon. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW (7th fl.)
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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DEC 15 2003
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Dear Secretary Williams:

This refers to STB Docket No. AB-863X, City of Venice-Abandonment Exemption-Branch St. Yard, MO, and McKinley Junction, IL-Notice of Exemption, and to the Notice of Exemption of the City of Venice and the request of Madison County Transit for the imposition of a trails condition, filed December 9, 2003.

Please be advised that this firm's client, Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis, pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 1104.13, intends to reply to the filings on or before December 29, 2003, and, pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 1152.50 (d)(3), to seek a stay of the Notice's effective date, now calculated to be January 28, 2004.

Ten copies of this letter are enclosed to permit your circulation of it. An additional copy of this letter is enclosed for you to stamp to acknowledge your receipt of it and to return to me via the messenger.

Copies of this letter have been served upon the City of Venice and Madison County Transit by facsimile transmitting copies to their representatives.

Sincerely yours,

Fritz R. Kahn

cc: Charles H. Montange, Esq. (206) 546-3739
Mr. Jerry Kane (618) 797-7547
Rebecca R. Jackson, (314) 259-2020