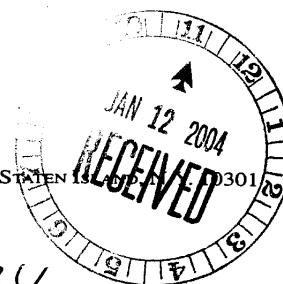




JAMES P. MOLINARO
PRESIDENT

CITY OF NEW YORK
PRESIDENT
OF THE
BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND

BOROUGH HALL, STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. 10301



209834

January 6, 2004

Honorable Roger Nober
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20423-0001

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Office of Proceedings

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Public Record

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 34429;
The New York City Economic Development Corporation
Petition for Declaratory Order

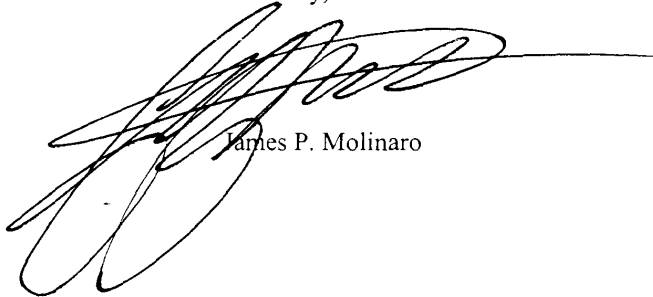
Dear Mr. Chairman:

I strongly support the Petition of New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) for a Declaratory Order as part of its effort to reactivate the Staten Island Railroad. We agree with the NYCEDC that the track that NYCEDC proposes to construct does not require Board approval. Furthermore, because Federal law preempts the state and local laws that could interfere with the construction proposed here and therefore with the ability of the operating railroads to fulfill their common carrier obligation, NYCEDC should be allowed to proceed with this project accordingly. In sum, I respectfully request that the Board grant the NYCEDC Petition for a Declaratory Order.

As the Board is aware, the SIRR was abandoned in 1990. The long awaited reactivation of the SIRR will promote much needed economic development for Staten Island. The construction on the north end of the SIRR system (near Arlington Yard and on the north shore line) will allow business growth to occur at the Howland Hook Marine Terminal. Moreover, the reactivation of the Travis Branch will provide VISY Paper and the VanBro Corporation with the option of moving both inbound and outbound commodities by rail. This project will also reduce regional truck traffic and its commensurate air pollutants. It provides a "win-win" situation from an economic development and an environmental protection perspective.

I respectfully urge the STB to rule in favor of the NYCEDC's petition, and to do so expeditiously. The NYCEDC needs a determination from this Board soon to commence construction in a timely way, as described in the Petition. Any further delay to the reactivation of the SIRR will impede Staten Island economic development, and add to traffic congestion and air pollution. I look forward to the STB's affirmative response to the NYCEDC's Petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James P. Molinaro', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

James P. Molinaro

cc: Mr. Vernon Williams