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ORIGINAL



January 26, 2004

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JAN 30 2004

Part of
Public Record

Dear Secretary Williams:

This refers to STB Docket No. 863X, City of Venice-Abandonment Exemption-Between Branch Street Yard, MO, and McKinley Junction, IL, and to the Motion to Strike filed by the City of Venice on January 23, 2004.

Please be advised that, lest its silence be construed as acquiescing in the granting of the Motion to Strike, Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis anticipated filing its Reply in opposition to the Motion to Strike on or before February 12, 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 enclosed stamped and self-addressed envelope.

Service of the this letter and the Petition upon the City of Venice and Madison County Transit has been effected by facsimile transmitting copies of thereof to their representatives.

If you have any question concerning the foregoing which you believe I may be able to answer or if I otherwise can be of assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,


Fritz R. Kahn

enc.

cc: Charles H. Montange, Esq. (206) 546-3739
Mr. Jerry Kane (618) 797-7547