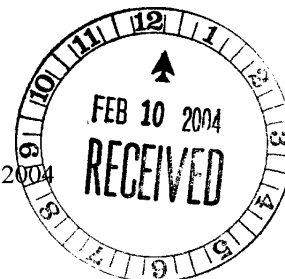


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ORIGINAL



January 27, 2004

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

FEB 10 2004

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Public Record

210047

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 my letter, dated January 26, 2004, advising that Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis anticipated filing a Reply to the Motion to Strike filed by the City of Venice on January 23, 2004.

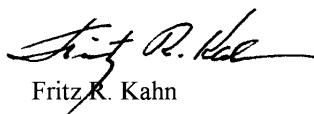
In the meantime, the Board, by its Decision late served January 26, 2004, denied the City's Motion to Strike, obviating the need for a Reply. Accordingly, TRRA will file no reply.

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 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