



The City Of

Opelika

Office of the Mayor

Rich in heritage,
with a vision
for the futureTelephone 334-705-5150
Fax 334-705-5153

May 17, 2004

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
1925 K Street NW Room 700
Washington DC 20423

Re: Pine Belt Southern Railroad Company, Inc.
Abandonment Roanoke Junction to Lafayette
Docket No. AB601 (Sub No. 1X)

Dear Mr. Williams:

We would like to extend the 180-day period that was granted effective from January 21, 2004 to enable negotiations to take place with the owner of the above railroad. We have received notification of a grant to acquire the ROW but are unable to negotiate, according to the grant guidelines, until the local governmental agencies involved have signed agreements with ALDOT and appraisals have been done.

The owner has agreed to work with us and extend the period. We are hopeful that all will be complete before July 19, 2004, which is the end of the exemption, but think the end of August would better allow for completion of the acquisition. Therefore, we would request an extension until August 31, 2004. Thank you for your consideration.

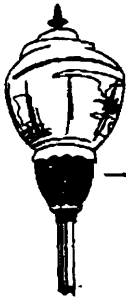
Sincerely,

Barbara H. Patton
Mayor

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Telephone 334-705-5150
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FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 5/12/04
TO: Vernon A. Williams
FIRM: Surface Transportation Board
FAX NO: 202-565-9019

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NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVERING SHEET: 2

RE: Piedmont Southern Railroad Co., Inc.

COMMENTS:

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RECEIVE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES INDICATED, PLEASE CALL
Paula, (334) 705-5150.