



Jeb Bush
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Colleen M. Castille
Secretary

December 1, 2004

Mr. Vernon Williams, Secretary
United States Surface Transportation Board (STB)
1925 K Street NW, Room 700
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Florida West Coast Railroad Abandonment in Alachua and Gilchrist Counties,
Florida, STB Docket Number AB-347 (Sub-No. 3X)

Dear Secretary Williams:

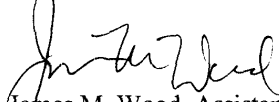
This request is filed on behalf of the Office of Greenways and Trails, which is an office of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, hereinafter referred to as 'Proponent'.

The Proponent filed a request for an issuance of a notice of interim trail use (NITU) under the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d) (Trails Act) and a request for imposition of a public use condition (PUC) under 49 U.S.C. 10905. Florida West Coast Railroad Company, Inc. (FWCR) stated that they were not willing to negotiate for interim trail use. Because the Trails Act permits only voluntary interim trail use, a NITU could not be issued. The Surface Transportation Board granted the public use condition on June 14, 2004.

The proponent believes that current discussions with FWCR have indicated that they are willing to negotiate an interim trail use agreement for the right-of-way in this proceeding. We request a NITU condition to negotiate an agreement with FWCR. We are requesting a 180-day period for negotiating the agreement.

Thank you for your kind consideration in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,


James M. Wood, Assistant Director
Office of Greenways & Trails

cc:

David Anderson, Attorney for Florida West Coast Railroad
John Gold, Attorney for CSX
CSX Real Property

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