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AWARDS

Pennsylvania Recreation &
Park Society
Local Governmental Award
(2005)

Pennsylvania Wildlife
Federation
Conservation Organization
of the Year
(2000)

National Coalition of
Recreational Trails
Engineering of HRTCP
(2000)

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
and American Society of
Landscape Architects
Design of Bridges & Tunnel
(2003)

American Trails Association
State Trail Worker Award
Carl Knoch
(2004)

National Park Service and
National Rails-to-Trails
Conservancy
HRTCP
(2008)

Pennsylvania Tourism Office
Keystone Society Award
Carl Knoch
(2010)



August 18, 2011

Cynthia T. Brown
Chief of the Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Stewartstown Railroad Company - Adverse Abandonment - In York County, PA, STB Docket No. AB-1071

Dear Ms. Brown:

This letter is a follow up letter to the York County Rail Trail Authority's previous correspondence of July 19, 2011 and in response to the August 12, 2011 Environmental Assessment for the above referenced adverse abandonment proceedings.

With respect to the Environmental Assessment, August 12, 2011 we would like to add the following comments:

1. We strongly believe the Stewartstown Rail line is appropriate for public use. Its historic and physical aspects make it an exceptional candidate for railbanking.
2. Trail use will preserve the historic structures on the line and create a public venue from which they can be appreciated.
3. Railbanking offers the only viable means of preserving the rail corridor and its associated historic resources.
4. The York County Rail Trail Authority is a proven and recognized builder of rail-trails and as such is in a position to be able to negotiate for the funding necessary to purchase the corridor and use it as trail until such time that a viable railroad can reactive the line.

Further we would like to request the following:

1. The Stewartstown Railroad be required to provide 30-days advance notice of its intent to consummate the abandonment (we would like to see this condition be included in any order granting the adverse abandonment).
2. The York County Rail Trail Authority should be notified of any intent to consummate and be given 10 days to request a CITU and Public Use Condition. *See, e.g. BG & CM Railroad, Inc. – Acquisition and Operation Exemption – Camasprairie Railnet, Inc., STB FD 34399, served Oct. 17, 2003.*
3. A historic preservation condition must be imposed barring any removal of tracks, structures, or any consummation of abandonment authorization until the completion of the reviews required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act., 16 U.S.C. § 470f. In addition, the York County Rail Trail Authority hereby requests that it be granted status as a consulting party to the Section 106 process.

As the Surface Transportation Board continues its review of the adverse abandonment filing and the many subsequent documents that have been submitted related to the filing, we strongly urge the Board to consider foremost the regional significance of this historic railroad resource and carry out its statutory responsibility to encourage State and local agencies and private interest to establish appropriate trail using the provisions of "the federal railbanking law. 16 U.S.C. § 1247(d). The imposition of a condition that preserves and facilitates the ability to railbank the corridor, consistent with the legal filing, is vital both to carry out this policy and to preserve the Stewartstown historic railroad resources.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.R. Knoch", written in a cursive style.

Carl R. Knoch, Chairman