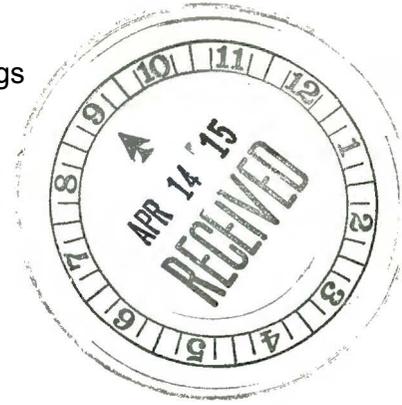


April 7, 2015

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April 14, 2015  
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Ms. Cynthia T. Brown, Chief  
Section of Administration  
Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 "E" Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Fort Transfer Company – Verified Petition for Expedited Relief for Service Emergencies – Tazewell County, Illinois – STB Docket No. FD-35914

Dear Ms. Brown:

Mr. Brad Kahler, President of Fort Transfer Company, has contacted us as it relates to the above Petition. We are extremely concerned with the recent decision by TP&W railway to cease rail service to Morton, Illinois which directly affects Fort Transfer Company and its ability to move and/or receive product.

Fort Transfer Company is one of our long-standing businesses, who is headquartered in Morton for over 85 years. Their business grew 34% last year and they have increased their employee base by 12 locally this past year. Currently 60% of their drivers are independent contractors, adding 25 drivers last year and looking at an additional 25 in 2015. Including drivers, they have a total of 200 employees overall. This growth is due to emerging use of organic herbicides in the local agricultural market.

Fort Transfer has other locations throughout the United States. If this company does not receive approval of their Petition for emergency services from Keokuk Junction Railway Company, I believe they will leave our community. This would be a huge negative economic impact on our community. Our efforts in economic development are primarily driven by assisting our existing businesses to thrive and grow. The lack of rail service impairs these economic development efforts.

Please consider, on behalf of the Morton Economic Development Council, to grant Fort Transfer's Petition for emergency service from Keokuk Junction Railway Co., as soon as possible. Thank you for your expedient attention to this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brian Anderson'.

Brian Anderson, CEO  
Morton Economic Development Council

Cc: Eric Hocky, Clark Hill, Plc, One Commerce Square, 2005 Market St., Ste 1000, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Daniel Lakemper, Alabama & Florida Railway, 1318 S. Johnson Rd, Peoria, IL 61607  
Maquiling Parkerson, Norfolk Southern Corp, Three Commercial Place, Norfolk, VA 23510-2191  
Ronald Rainsan, Village of Morton, PO Box 28, Morton, IL 61550-0028  
Richard Streeter, Law Office of Richard Streeter, 5255 Partridge Lane, NW, Washington, DC 20016  
Brad Kahler, Fort Transfer Co., 225 Maple, PO Box 457, Morton, IL 61550