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Anna K. Quinlan, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 "K" Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: Burlington Northern Santa Fe Company Abandonment, Page and Fremont
Counties in Iowa; Docket # AB 6 (Sub No 479X)

Dear Mrs. Quinlan:

This comment should be treated as a petition for reconsideration in the above-captioned proceeding. This comment is filed on behalf of the Page and Fremont County Conservation Boards, the City of Farragut (public agencies), Southwest Iowa Nature Trails, Inc.(SWINT) and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (non-profit corporations), which are parties interested in conservation and recreation, and are hereinafter referred to as "Commenter".

While not taking a position on the merits of this abandonment, Commenter requests issuance of a Public Use Condition as well as a Certificate or Notice of Interim Trail Use rather than an outright abandonment authorization between milepost 20.05 in Shenandoah and milepost 26.0 in Farragut.

A. Public Use Condition

Commenter requests the STB to find that this property is suitable for other public use, specifically trail use, and to place the following conditions on the abandonment:

1. An order prohibiting Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) from disposing of the corridor, including tracks, ties and signal equipment, except for public use on reasonable terms. The justification for this condition is that the corridor will connect Farragut, an active bicycling and walking community to the existing 63-mile Wabash Trace Nature



Trail in Shenandoah. The Wabash Trace is a national recognized trail having received National Recreation Trail designation by the Department of the Interior and inducted into the Rails-to-Trail Conservancy's Hall of Fame. The corridor also provides important wildlife habitat. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Commenter needs this much time to complete negotiations with the railroad.

2. An order barring removal or destruction of potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles, culverts and tunnels. The justification for this condition is that these structures have considerable value for trail purposes and future reactivation of rail service. The time period requested is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization in order to complete negotiations with the railroad.

B. Interim Trail Use

The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for railbanking and interim trail use. In addition to the public use conditions sought above, Commenter also makes the following statement:

STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: In order to establish interim trail use and rail banking under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C.1247(d), and 49 C.F.R. 1152.29, Commenter is willing to assume full responsibility for management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of, and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way owned by BNSF after transfer of the corridor to the public agencies.

The Fremont and Page County Conservation Boards, City of Farragut, SWINT and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation acknowledge that the use of the right-of-way is subject to the user's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

The property extends from milepost 20.05 in Shenandoah, Page County to milepost 26.0 in Farragut, Fremont County, Iowa. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No AB 6 (Sub No 479X). A map depicting the right-of-way is attached.

By my signature below, I certify service upon BNSF Railway c/o Karl Morell, 655 Fifteenth Street NW, Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005 by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, first class, this 13th day of March, 2012 and via FAX number 202-783-6947.

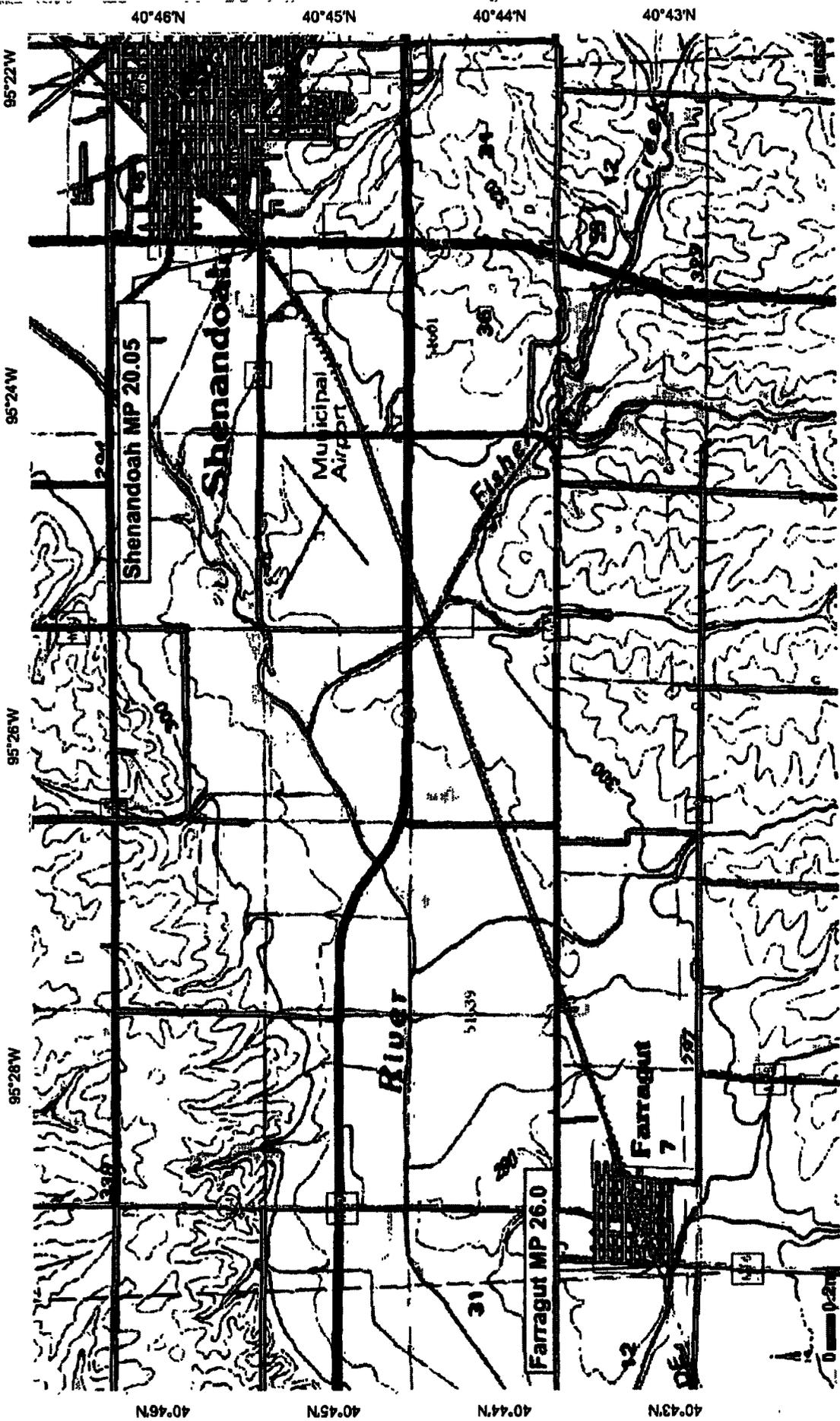
On behalf of the Fremont and Page County Conservation Boards, the City of Farragut, SWINT and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, thank you for your consideration of this petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark C. Ackelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "A".

Mark C. Ackelson
President

cc: Page CCB, Fremont CCB, City of Farragut, SWINT



Geographic Coordinate System (WGS84)

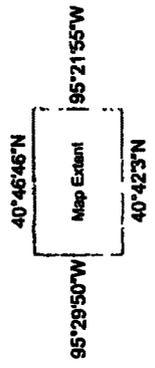


EXHIBIT A

