

CITY OF WATER VALLEY

Larry Hart, Mayor

P. O. Box 888

Water Valley, Mississippi 38965

Board of Aldermen

Donald Gray
Bobby Joe Cox
Phillip S. Lallant
Larry Bell
Fred E. White

Municipal Officers

Vivian S. Sinder, City Clerk
Michael W. King, Police Chief
John J. Crow, Jr., City Attorney
Trent L. Howell, Municipal Judge

October 6, 2011

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

Office

October 6, 2011

Public

In Reference: Docket No. AB-1087X
Grenada Railway, LLC

231061

Dear Ms. Brown,

On behalf of the City of Water Valley located in Yalobusha County, Mississippi, I would like to voice our opposition to the Grenada Railways, LLC planned abandonment of the Rail Line from milepost 622.5 to milepost 703.8, which is a vital part and major link of rail transportation service from the Tennessee State Line in the North to the City of Jackson, Mississippi and on to the Gulf Coast in the South.

The City of Water Valley was put at a great economic disadvantage in the 1980's when the Illinois Central Railroad abandoned the rail service through our City. The only rail service now left for our City to use is the Grenada Railway, LLC Line that passes through the Western part of Yalobusha County. If the proposed abandonment takes place, **then Yalobusha County will be cut off from shipping to the South**, thus having to ship North to Memphis, Tennessee then back South creating an unbearable freight rate.

These are indeed slow economic times in our Country and many of our local towns and counties, thus many of the rail scrap companies are jumping on the opportunity to declare "No Business on the Line" and remove the rails for quick profits on a booming world market for scrap steel.

I acknowledge that freight movement on the section of railroad in question is slow and a temporary discontinuance of service would certainly not be out of the question but the **removal of the rail** is unthinkable.

The towns and counties through which this rail passes has an economic development aggressiveness in place and is working diligently to locate jobs and businesses on this line.

The economy will turn around and we must be positioned in our rail transportation infrastructure to meet the needs of the existing jobs and businesses and those that want to locate in our area in the future.

The removal of the rails in question must not be allowed as we look toward the future of this part of our State.

I respectfully ask you not to allow the removal of this rail for "Quick Profits" A temporary discontinuance of service perhaps, but removal of rail, **absolutely not.**

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and we look forward to your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Hart".

Larry Hart
Mayor