

# Congress of the United States

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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January 7, 2015

The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott, III  
Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, S.W., Suite 1220  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
January 9, 2015  
Part of  
Public Record

Dear Chairman Elliott:

**RE: STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 104x)  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – Petition to Reopen and  
Modify - Oconto County, WI**

We write to express our support for, and request an expedited decision on, a petition currently before the Surface Transportation Board (STB).

This past December, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation submitted a Petition to Re-Open and Modify the Notice of Interim Trail Use (NITU) and vacate the NITU for a rail corridor located in Oconto, Wisconsin.

It is clear to us that sufficient support exists inside the community and local governments, as well as with Union Pacific, the impacted railroad company. We believe the STB's approval of this petition, and the subsequent abandonment of this rail corridor, will quickly lead to additional property transactions, and ultimately allow a locally-established business to utilize a portion of the corridor to double its existing production facilities. The expansion project would then add several dozen new jobs and millions in economic growth to the region.

We understand this is a time sensitive manner due to the fact that the business expansion project may not be feasible, or even possible if construction cannot begin by January 30, 2015.

We strongly support this collaboration, respectfully request the STB expedite the decision-making process on the NITU petition, and see this effort as a proverbial "win-win" situation for all parties involved.

Please do not hesitate to contact our Washington, DC offices to discuss any concerns or questions our letter may raise. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Ron Johnson  
US Senator

  
Reid J. Ribble  
Member of Congress