

LAW OFFICE
THOMAS F. MCFARLAND, P.C.
208 SOUTH LASALLE STREET - SUITE 1666
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604-1228
TELEPHONE (312) 236-0204
mcfarland@aol.com

THOMAS F. MCFARLAND

July 7, 2017

By e-filing

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown, Chief
Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20024

Re: Re: STB Docket Nos. AB-1254X and AB-1255X, *Winamac Southern Railway Company and US Rail Holdings, LLC -- Abandonment Exemption -- in Kokomo, Howard County, IN*

Dear Ms. Brown:

Hereby forwarded for filing in the above proceeding is an environmental comment of the United States Department of Agriculture dated June 29, 2017 (will not cause a conversion of prime farmland).

Very truly yours,



Thomas F. McFarland
Attorney for Joint Applicants

TMcF:mg:enc:\1755\efSTB1

cc: Messrs. Scot Ortman, *sortman@kokomograin.com*
Brad Ortman, *bortman@kokomograin.com*
John Sigler, *jsigler@kokomograin.com*



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Indiana State Office
6013 Lakeside Boulevard
Indianapolis, IN 46278
317-290-3200

June 29, 2017

Thomas F. McFarland, P.C.
208 South LaSalle Street
Suite 1666
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1228

Dear Mr. McFarland:

The proposed project to abandon rail line west of Webster Street and Milepost No. 183.64 and end at the south right-of-way line of Defenbaugh Street in the City of Kokomo, Howard County, Indiana, as referred to in your letter received June 19, 2017, will not cause a conversion of prime farmland.

If you need additional information, please contact Rick Neilson at 317-295-5875.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jane E. Hardisty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JANE E. HARDISTY
State Conservationist

Helping People Help the Land.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.