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DAVID L. MORGAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

December 20, 2004

Ms. Christa Dean
Surface Transportation Board
1924 K Street, New
Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: **CSX Transportation Inc., Proposed Line Abandonment in Floyd County, Kentucky
(Docket AB-55 (Sub No. 645X))**

Dear Ms. Dean:

While our review of this undertaking indicates that none of the bridges associated with this line are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, a segment of this rail line lies within the Middle Creek National Battlefield, a National Historic Landmark with special protections. As we noted in a letter to Mr. Dave Geraci of CSX, it has been brought to our attention that a notice of interim trail use (NITU) under the National Trails System Act has been submitted by the Middle Creek National Battlefield Foundation and approved. It is our sincerest hope that this rails-to-trails proposal is given the highest priority for its immense benefit to the public and to cultural historic properties.

With this in mind if CSX transfers this line to a coal company with the stipulation that should they ever take it out of rail service that the line be offered to a local government or nonprofit group to be converted to a pedestrian or bike trail then the proposed undertaking would have no adverse effect on the Middle Creek National Battlefield. If the line is abandoned without this stipulation then in our opinion this undertaking will have an adverse effect on this National Historic Landmark.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact David Pollack of my staff at (502) 564-7005 ext. 123.

Sincerely,

David L. Morgan, Director
Kentucky Heritage Council and
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc. Dave Geraci