



Indianapolis

Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor

July 31, 2013

234659

Daniel R. Elliott III, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

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Re: Finance Docket No. 35523

Dear Chairman Elliott,

I am writing in strong support of the Joint Use Application filed by CSX Transportation, Inc. ("CSXT") and one of our corporate citizens, the Louisville & Indiana Railroad Company, Inc. ("L&I"). The proposed transaction between the two companies will create a once-in-a-generation opportunity for major and lasting investment in Indiana's rail infrastructure and will result in substantial economic development benefits.

CSXT proposes to invest significant resources to transform the L&I's 106-mile main line between Indianapolis and Jeffersonville from a rail line with maximum operating speeds today of 25 m.p.h. to a line with operating speeds as high as 49 m.p.h. Over a period of seven years, the entire line will be upgraded to continuous-welded rail, roadbeds will be refreshed, passing sidings will be added as needed, and bridges will be upgraded.

These much needed improvements will enhance service to the over 70 rail-served customers in Indianapolis, virtually all of them served by CSXT. Some of Indianapolis' largest employers and contributors to our economic health are served by CSXT: Archer Daniels Milling, Cargill, Citizens Thermal Energy, Eli Lilly, General Electric, Hall & House Lumber, Heritage Environmental, Indianapolis Star, Interstate Warehousing, Merchandise Warehouse, Omnisource, and Rock Tenn.

In Indianapolis there are 867 resident railroad employees with average annual wages (excluding benefits) of \$65,000. The annual railroad payroll for these residents is \$54.6 million, a significant contributor to Indianapolis' tax base. This transaction will strengthen the existing railroad employment and tax base within the city as well as providing more opportunities for expansion of both.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my support for the Application. If you have any questions, please contact my Deputy Chief of Staff Amy Waggoner at Amy.Waggoner@indy.gov or 317.327.4173.

Sincerely,

Gregory A. Ballard
Mayor

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