



Insurance Exchange Building Suite 444
505 Fifth Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Phone: 515-288-1846
Fax: 515-288-0137
e-mail: lhein@inhf.org
www.inhf.org

239014

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
August 12, 2015
Part of
Public Record

August 12, 2015

Cynthia T. Brown, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 "K" Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: Iowa Interstate Railroad, Ltd- Abandonment in Polk and Jasper Counties, Iowa; Docket # AB414-8X

Dear Ms. Brown:

This request is filed on behalf of the Jasper and Polk County Conservation Boards, the Cities of Prairie City and Mitchellville (public agency) and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (non-profit corporation), which are parties interested in conservation and recreation, and are hereinafter referred to as "Proponent."

Proponent requests issuance of a Notice of Interim Trail Use rather than an outright abandonment authorization for the Iowa Interstate Railroad (IAIS) rail line between **milepost 145.75 south of Mitchellville to milepost 135.0 near Prairie City** in Polk and Jasper Counties, Iowa.

The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for railbanking and interim trail use. The corridor helps extend the Central Iowa Trail System- a regional network of nearly 700 miles of trails – to the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge. Proponent makes the following statement:

STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: In order to establish interim trail use and rail banking under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C.1247(d), and 49 C.F.R. 1152.29, Proponent is willing to assume full responsibility for management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of, and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-

FILING FEE WAIVED

way owned by Iowa Interstate Railroad, Ltd. after transfer of the corridor to the public agencies.

The Jasper and Polk County Conservation Boards, the Cities of Prairie City and Mitchellville (public agency) and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation acknowledge that the use of the right-of-way is subject to the user's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

The property extends from milepost 145.75 south of Mitchellville to milepost 135.0 near Prairie City. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No AB414-8X. A map depicting the right-of-way is attached.

On behalf of the Polk and Jasper Conservation Boards, the Cities of Prairie City and Mitchellville and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, thank you for your consideration of this petition.

Sincerely,



Andrea Boulton
Statewide Trails Coordinator

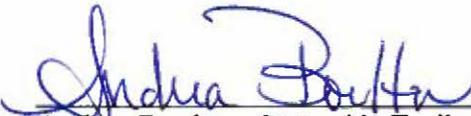
cc: Polk County Conservation Board
Jasper County Conservation Board
City of Prairie City
City Mitchellville

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on August 12, 2015 a true and accurate copy of the foregoing motion has been served to the following party via first-class mail, postage pre-paid:

Onna B. Houck
Corporate Council
Iowa Interstate Railroad
5900 6th St. S.W.
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Thomas J. Litwiler
Fletcher and Sippel LLC
Suite 920
29 North Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606-2832



Andrea Boulton, Statewide Trails Coordinator
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

