



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 2 • 317 EAST POE RD. • BOWLING GREEN, OHIO 43402 • (419) 353-8131
JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR • JERRY WRAY, DIRECTOR • TODD AUDET, P.E., DISTRICT DEPUTY DIRECTOR

September 15, 2016

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Surface Transportation Board
395 "E" Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
August 26, 2016
Part of
Public Record

RE: Michigan Southern Railroad Company – Discontinuance of Service Exemption – Henry County, Ohio – STB Docket No. AB-1245X.

Dear Chairman Elliot:

The Ohio Department of Transportation, District 2 ("ODOT") submits this letter in support of Michigan Southern Railroad Company, d/b/a Napoleon, Defiance & Western Railroad's ("MSO") Petition of Exemption to discontinue service on a railroad segment extending from MP 33.43, near Napoleon, Ohio, to Milepost 28.0 at Liberty Center, Henry County, Ohio. The MSO line proposed for discontinuance crosses, at grade, U.S. Highway 24 near Liberty Center. ODOT is very concerned about the safety of this crossing. This is a divided, four-lane, limited-access highway. In the interest of safety, ODOT believes this crossing should be closed as soon as possible.

The ODOT, the Ohio Rail Development Commission and MSO reached an agreement recently on the proposed removal of the crossings on the segment and improvements to MSO's remaining track, but the crossing cannot be removed until such time as the MSO discontinuance is granted. As such, ODOT fully supports the discontinuance Petition and requests that you give it expedited consideration.¹

Respectfully,

Todd M. Audet, P.E.
District Two Deputy Director

cc: Vice Chairman Miller
Commissioner Begeman

OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN
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¹ ODOT also understands that the only customer on the segment has been relocated, and is in support of the Petition