



**Benjamin L. Hale**  
JUDGE/EXECUTIVE of FLOYD COUNTY  
COMMONWEALTH of KENTUCKY  
Floyd County Fiscal Court  
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Cynthia Brown  
Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
November 16, 2015  
Part of  
Public Record

Dear Ms. Brown:

As Chief Executive Officer of Floyd County, I respectfully request your re-consideration of the proposed abandonment of the Prestonsburg to David rail corridor [STB Docket number AB 55 (Sub-No. 745X)]. While the region's primary industry has declined, current economic development efforts are underway through Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) and One East Kentucky, a regional economic development organization, to diversify the economy including alternate industrial/manufacturing opportunities. The fact that there is a limited number of economic development sites with direct rail access in the region makes this rail corridor highly valuable to Floyd County as a key component to potential development in our area as well as Central Appalachia.

It is my intention to focus economic development efforts in Floyd County with the help of Kentucky's Economic Development Cabinet and other aforementioned efforts toward marketing this important asset that could give us a much needed advantage toward replacing jobs lost as a result of the coal industry's decline with industrial employers. Property along the Prestonsburg to David rail corridor and including the Beverly Ann Tipple site lends itself to this intended use and is greatly enhanced by the access to rail. Therefore, I am asking for your postponement of abandonment of this rail corridor to allow for further exploration of all possibilities for the best use in consideration of Floyd County's continued economic development plans.

I am in currently in discussions with confidentiality agreements signed that involves the potential use of such a needed asset. CSX will benefit more if the potential development along these type corridors are realized and pursued in the future. We need time to explore these possible developments which rail is a key component for any such development.

Please consider delaying abandonment of this corridor pending a full vetting of these economic opportunities in which rail spurs is a key component.

Sincerely,

Ben Hale

Floyd County Judge Executive

**FILING FEE WAIVED**



Floyd County Fiscal Court is committed to providing safe, decent and affordable housing for low-income clients with special needs.



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE:

I certify that I have this day served copies of document upon all parties of record in this proceeding, by [U.S. Mail or E-mail].

Signature Bert Hale Date 11/13/15