



Mississippi State Legislature

P. O. Box 1018
Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1018

October 25, 2011

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown, Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington D.C. 20423-0001

RE: STB Docket No. AB-1087-X
Grenada Railway LLC
Petition for Abandonment Exemption

Dear Ms. Brown:

The following joint resolution was adopted and approved by the Transportation Committee of the Mississippi House of Representatives and the Highways and Transportation Committee of the Mississippi Senate on October 18, 2011:

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE OF THE MISSISSIPPI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE OF THE MISSISSIPPI SENATE UNANIMOUSLY OPPOSING GRENADA RAILWAY, LLC'S, PETITION FOR EXEMPTION TO ABANDON THE GRENADA LINE COMPRISED OF 81.3 MILES FROM CANTON, MISSISSIPPI, TO GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI, AND URGING THE NATIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD TO DENY THE PETITION FOR EXEMPTION AND REQUIRE A FULL EVIDENTIARY HEARING BE HELD REGARDING THE ABANDONMENT.

WHEREAS, the Transportation Committee of the House of Representatives of the State of Mississippi and the Highways and Transportation Committee of the Senate of the State of Mississippi are charged with jurisdiction and oversight for transportation policy and legislative initiatives, including development and maintenance of railroad transportation in our state; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Mississippi has been advised of the filing by Grenada Railway, LLC, of its Petition to seek an Exemption Abandonment of 81.3 miles of the Canton to Memphis line, constituting the south half of the line; and

WHEREAS, the transportation policy of the State of Mississippi recognizes the critical need for a comprehensive and coordinated intermodal network and the state's Unified Long Range Transportation Infrastructure Plan consists of aeronautics, freight, rails and ports and waterways; and

WHEREAS, of all of the components of the State of Mississippi's intermodal policy, the availability of rail service is vital to the success of the policy and economic development; and

WHEREAS, unlike airports, highways, and water ports, rails are usually privately owned and operated and short lines are unique because they serve rural Mississippi and, once abandoned, short lines are not restored and are lost for future generations; and

WHEREAS, short lines are a vital link in Mississippi's intermodal plan and full evidentiary hearing is needed to substantiate the need for short lines in Mississippi's intermodal plan; and

WHEREAS, numerous businesses, local governments and other interested parties on the Grenada line expressed their concerns about the effect of the abandonment; and

WHEREAS, the committees conducted a hearing on October 18, 2011, at the New Capitol Building in Jackson, Mississippi, and representatives of the Mississippi Transportation Commission, the Attorney General's Office, the Mississippi Development Authority, local governments, and Grenada Railway, LLC, all testified concerning the effect of the proposed Exemption Abandonment; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi North District Office Director for U.S. Senator Thad Cochran also appeared and presented a letter from Mississippi's senior senator requesting the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board to require a full evidentiary abandonment hearing in lieu of the Exemption Abandonment process:

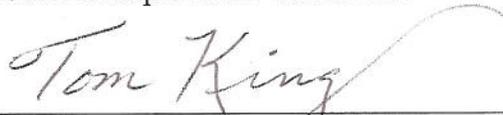
NOW, THEREFORE, after full consideration and discussion by committee members, motion was made and unanimously adopted that this resolution and the opposition of the Joint Committee be presented to the National Surface Transportation Board, requesting that the Exemption Abandonment petition be denied, and that a full evidentiary hearing be conducted at which all parties can present testimony and evidence, and cross examine the company's witnesses to substantiate the irreparable harm that will be caused by the company's proposed abandonment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Transportation Committee of the Mississippi House of Representatives and the Highways and Transportation Committee of the Mississippi Senate jointly request to be considered a party of record on the matter of STB Docket No. AB-1087-X.

Approved and adopted this the 18th day of October 2011.



Representative Warner McBride, Chairman
House Transportation Committee



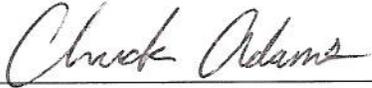
Senator Tom King, Chairman
Senate Highway & Transportation Committee

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

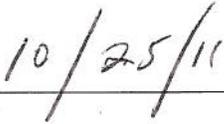
Sincerely,

Chuck Adams
Attorney and Committee Counsel
Mississippi House of Representatives
108 New Capitol
P.O. Box 1018
Jackson, MS 39215-1018

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct. Further, I certify that I am qualified and authorized to file this letter.



SIGNATURE



DATE

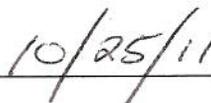
Certificate of Service

RE: Grenada Railway, LLC - Abandonment of railroad line in Mississippi - STB Docket AB-1087-X

I, Chuck Adams, certify that I have this day served copies of this document upon all parties of record in this proceeding, by email, if available, or by first class mail.



Signature



Date

Chuck Adams
Attorney and Committee Counsel
Mississippi House of Representatives
108 New Capitol
P.O. Box 1018
Jackson, MS 39215-1018

Bondurant, Honorable Sid
State of Mississippi District 24
P.O. Box 1045
Grenada, MS 38902
Sbondurant@house.ms.gov

Brown, Don R.
Kosciusko and Southwestern Railway
P.O. Box 787
Water Valley, MS 38965

Brown, Walter
Walter Brown Law Firm, PLLC
P. O. Box 963
Natchez, MS 39121
Wlawfirm@bellsouth.net

Cockroft, Mayor Jimmy W.
City of Kosciusko
222 East Washington Street
Kosciusko, MS 39090
Cityhall@Cityofkosciusko.com

Diaz, Pablo
Grenada County Economic Development District
81 S. Church Street
Grenada, MS 38901
pablo@grenadameansbusiness.com

Flanagan, Jim
Desoto County Economic Development Council
316 West Commerce Street
Hernando, MS 38362
jflanagan@desotocounty.com

Harper, Honorable Gregg
Congress of the United States
307 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Hart, Mayor Larry
City of Water Valley
P.O. Box 888
Water Valley, MS 38965
wvch@bellsouth.net

Kahn, Fritz R.
Fritz R. Kahn Pc
1920 N Street Nw 8Th Floor
Washington, DC 20036-1601
xiccgc@worldnet.att.net and xiccgc@verizon.net

Lakemper, Daniel A.
1318 S. Johanson Rd.
Peoria, IL 61607

Marascalco, Joe
4744 W.E. Ross Parkway
Apartment 49-104
Southaven, MS 38671

Masingill, Christopher
Delta Regional Authority
444 North Capitol, N.W., Suite 445B
Washington, D.C. 20001

Nichols, J. Burke
Carlisle Construction Materials
1201 Scott Street
Senatobia, MS 38668

Riley, Robert
Locomotive Engineer
1799 Greer Rd.
Coldwater, MS 38618

Roberts, Joe
Burrows Paper Corporation
196 Burrows Dr.
Pickens, MS 39146
jroberts@burline.com

Sutherland, Andrew
General Electric Rail Services
161 N. Clark St., 7Th Floor
Chicago, IL 60601

Taylor, Wade H.
Abitibowater
P.O. Box 849
Grenada, MS 38902-0849

Wynne, George T.
Tri-County Cooperative (Aal)
P.O. Box 310
Pickens, MS 39146

Zea, Steve
Kosciusko-Attala Development Corporation
101 N. Natchez St.
Kosciusko, MS 39090

Cochran, Senator Thad
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510