

# Hatter-Hanni

## Insurance and Financial Services

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March 11, 2014

Re: CSX Transportation, Inc.

Proposed Abandonment

STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 712X)

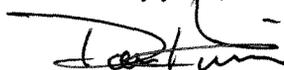
Surface Transportation Board,

Since its institution in America, the railroad has revolutionized and empowered businesses from coast to coast, allowing small businesses to compete on a national level. Even in recent years, the railroad has been instrumental in attracting corporations and creating jobs for communities nationwide. For the greater Monticello community, including White County as a whole, this can be seen with the \$350 million dollar investment of Magnetation LLC in an iron ore plant located in Reynolds, IN, a neighboring town within White County. This decision was based on the availability of rail lines adjoining the property. In addition, White County Economic Development Strategy has expressed plans to develop the Mid-America Commerce Park, formerly known as the Wolcott Corridor. Their decision is also reliant on the crucial rail lines adjoining the property. Rail has long encouraged and supported small businesses, the greater White County area in particular. It would be a shame to see such economic potential squandered by the abandonment of the CSX rail line.

In Monticello specifically, the CSX rail line not only operates and provides transportation for Monticello Farm Service, but also increases property value of businesses whose properties adjoin with the rail line. While CSX may only serve one business located on the line currently, there is no reason to believe that a new business would not come to the Monticello area looking to open a new location. While maintaining the CSX rail line would offer countless advantages to prospective businesses, the abandonment of the rail line would serve only to discourage the opening of a new business, especially if the nature of said new business depends on transportation via rail.

The opportunities the CSX rail line offers to both Monticello and White County are endless and bountiful. The abandonment of such a valuable asset would not only be detrimental to the immediate Monticello economy, but also the future of our community. As a business owner and resident of Monticello, I oppose the purported abandonment of CSX rail line, as proposed in Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 712X), and ask that the STB to do the same.

Sincerely yours,



Donald D. Hanni

cc Louis E. Gitomer

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