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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**REPRESENTATIVE  
MARY WHITEFORD**

80TH DISTRICT

**COMMITTEES:**  
AGRICULTURE  
MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
NATURAL RESOURCES

FD 35187 (1)

September 15, 2016

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ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
September 27, 2016

Part of  
Public Record

Daniel R. Elliott III  
Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 East Street SW  
Washington, DC 20034

Ann D. Begeman  
Commissioner  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 East Street SW  
Washington, DC

Deb Miller  
Vice Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 East Street SW  
Washington, DC 20034

Dear Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Miller, and Commissioner Begeman,

I am writing to you today regarding the recently filed Petition to Partially Revoke Class Exemption and the Petition for Waiver. I urge you to take action to support the Grand Elk Railroad and the residents of Allegan County this railroad serves.

The Grand Elk Railroad serves four major employers around Allegan County. Employers in and around Allegan County rely on Grand Elk's transportation services and are being harmed greatly by the current disruption to service. A continued disruption to services could have negative long-term effects to not only employers but residents.

After reviewing the information provided by Grand Elk Railroad, I understand that the railroad is taking the necessary legal action to restore its service. As the elected official for the affected area, I have a vested interest in ensuring that the businesses and residents are protected and thrive.

All of us are greatly aware how important competitive daily freight rates are to the success of business, and how a swift end to this ongoing issue will benefit all of West Michigan. I thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Mary Whiteford  
State Representative  
80<sup>th</sup> District