

WHITE COUNTY
Economic Development

124 North Main Street, Suite A, P.O. Box 1031, Monticello, Indiana 47960
P: 574.583.6557 / F: 574.583.6230
rmitchell@whiced.com

MAR 24 2014 11:11 AM
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March 10, 2014

CSX Transportation, Inc.
Proposed Abandonment
STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 712X)

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
March 26, 2014
Part of
Public Record

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, Indiana, a neighboring town within White County. This decision was based upon the availability of rail lines adjoining the property. In addition, the White County Economic Development strategy has expressed plans to develop the Mid-America Commerce Park, formerly known as the Wolcott Corridor, and this decision is also reliant on the crucial rail lines adjoining the property. Rail has long encouraged and supported small businesses and the greater White County area in particular. It would be a detriment to the community and our growth strategy to see the economic potential squandered by the abandonment of the CSX rail line from Monon, Indiana to Monticello.

In Monticello specifically, the CSX rail line not only operates and provides transportation for Monticello Farm Service, Inc., but also increases property value of businesses whose properties adjoin with the rail line. While CSX may currently only serve one business located on the line, 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. The abandonment of the rail line would most certainly lead to the loss of Monticello Farm Service, Inc. in our community and would result in a step backwards in our economic development growth strategy. As such, I oppose the purported abandonment of the CSX rail line as proposed in Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 712X), and ask that the STB do the same.

Regards,



Randy Mitchell
President, White County Economic Development organization

Cc: Honorable Kenneth Houston, Mayor of Monticello
Thom Timmons, President & General Manager Monticello Farm Service, Inc.