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**KATHRYN R. BARNEY**  
STAFF ATTORNEY

May 11, 2011

Admitted in FL

**Via electronic filing**

Cynthia T. Brown  
Chief of the Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings

MAY 11 2011

**Re: Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 699X), CSX Transportation, Inc. —  
Abandonment Exemption—in McMinn County, Tennessee**

Part of  
Public Record

Dear Ms. Brown:

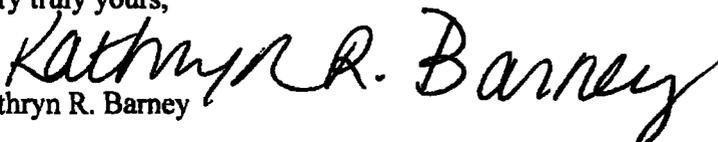
Reference is hereby made to the letter request of Mr. Anthony Casteel on behalf of the City of Athens, Tennessee (the "City") to the Board, dated May 5, 2011 and received by the Board on May 10, 2011, requesting a 180-day extension of the NITU negotiating period (the "Extension Request") in the above-entitled proceeding.

CSX Transportation, Inc. ("CSXT") hereby acknowledges and concurs with the Extension Request, as it has not consummated the abandonment, has been unable to finalize negotiations with the City, and desires to continue to negotiate for interim trail use/rail banking with the City.

Accordingly, CSXT agrees to a 180-day extension of the NITU negotiating period (i.e., until October 31, 2011)<sup>1</sup> to continue negotiations with the City. CSXT also believes that the consummation date for the line would be automatically extended to December 30, 2011 under 49 C.F.R. 1152.29(e)(2).

CSXT is e-filing this notice. Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions please call or email me.

Very truly yours,

  
Kathryn R. Barney

cc: Anthony Casteel

<sup>1</sup> It appears that the City inadvertently described the current NITU negotiating deadline as May 5, 2011 instead of May 4, 2011.