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August 18, 2011

MELANIE B. YASBIN  
Melanie@lgraillaw.com  
410-296-2225  
Cynthia T. Brown

Chief of the Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: **Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 707X), CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment  
Exemption—in Hardin County, OH**

Dear Ms. Brown,

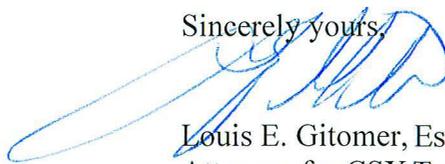
In an Environmental Assessment served on July 25, 2011, the Office of Environmental Analysis (“OEA”) recommended that:

CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of any historic properties including sites, buildings, structures, and objects within the project right-of-way (the Area of Potential Effect) that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. § 470f, has been completed. CSXT shall report to the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) regarding any consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office and the public. CSXT may not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks and ties) until the Section 106 process has been completed and the Board has removed this condition.

On August 3, 2011, the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (“OHPO”) sent a letter to CSXT (copy attached) advising that “it is our opinion that there will be no historic properties affected by the proposed abandonment.” Based on the analysis provided by OHPO, CSXT respectfully requests that the Surface Transportation Board not impose the condition recommended by OEA because CSXT has completed consultation with OHPO and OHPO has concluded that “there will be no historic properties affected.

CSXT is e-filing this letter. Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Louis E. Gitomer, Esq.  
Attorney for CSX Transportation, Inc.

Enclosure



August 3, 2011

Melanie Perea  
CSX Transportation  
500 Water Street, J200  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Re: CSX Abandonment Hardin QTA 24.95 to QTA 25.16  
STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 707X)  
Kenton, Hardin County, Ohio

Dear Ms. Perea,

This is in response to correspondence from your office dated June 8, 2011 (received June 13) regarding the above referenced project. The comments of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO) are submitted in accordance with provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 [36 CFR 800]).

The project involves abandonment of approximately 0.21 miles of railroad line. A check of our building inventory shows that there are older warehouse buildings located short distances west of the west end and east of the east end of the project (OHI # HAR-431-13, HAR-432-13, and HAR-439-13). Their location along a railroad is an important part of the setting for these buildings. We do not believe that the proposed project will substantially or noticeably change the settings for these buildings. We are not certain that the buildings are still standing. Based on available information, it is our opinion that there will be no historic properties affected by the proposed abandonment. Further coordination with this office is recommended if construction is proposed that has the potential to cause ground disturbance along the Ottawa River. In addition, if new or additional properties are discovered this office should be notified [36 CFR 800.13].

Any questions concerning this matter should be addressed to David Snyder at (614) 298-2000, between the hours of 8 am. to 5 pm. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

David Snyder, Ph.D., RPA, Archaeology Reviews Manager  
Resource Protection and Review

DMS/ds (OHPO Serial Number 1039279)

**OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*Ohio Historic Preservation Office*

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