

Monticello
Farm
Service, Inc.

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March 4, 2014

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ENTERED

Office of Proceedings

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Part of

Public Record

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

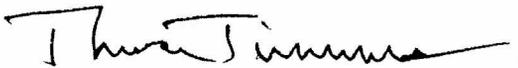
Surface Transportation Board,

As General Manager and President of Monticello Farm Service, I am writing to urge that the board does not move to allow the abandonment of the CSX Transportation Railroad Line running from Monon IN to Monticello, IN. Not only would the closure of the rail line decrease the value of MFS property, it also puts MFS at an economic disadvantage. MFS is located in its current position, as any prospective business would be, in part due to the advantage the rail line offers. If for any reason MFS were to sell our property, the property value decreases tremendously with the absence of a functioning rail line.

MFS prides itself in serving the needs of area farmers in an efficient and affordable manner. Part of that service comes from transportation of materials via the CSX rail line. By CSX planning to forego incurring any avoidable costs in the future through the abandonment of this rail line, the financial burden is transferred to MFS in the form of utilizing alternative forms of transportation, and in turn, the farmers of the local community.

Generally, the rail line has been the best mode of transportation for nitrogen fertilizer for our business and, in turn, our customers. Since October 30, 2013, MFS has increased shipments of nitrogen fertilizer via rail, 26 cars in this five month period alone. In addition, MFS has a supply plan calling for the incorporation of dry fertilizer for delivery via rail. In the next 12 months MFS anticipates rail shipments to be between 90-120 railcars. MFS is an expanding local business that serves the needs of local farmers, a strong presence within the Monticello community. Without the presence of the CSX rail line, this expansion is not possible.

Sincerely yours,



Thom Timmons

President & General Manager, Monticello Farm Service Inc.

cc Louis E. Gitomer