

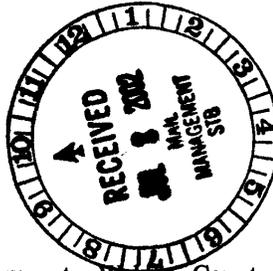
Webster County Chamber of Commerce
P.O.B. 4
Webster Springs, WV 26288

205860

DID# 0101996001

July 1, 2002

Mr. Vernon A Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K St. NW Rm 711
Washington, DC 20423



RE: CSX Transportation Inc, Abandonment - Webster County West Virginia (AB-55 Sub-no,603X)

Dear Mr. Williams,

Please find enclosed a check for \$150.00 as a processing fee for our trail request regarding the above abandonment.

I request that the fee requirement be waived for our organization. The Chamber is a nonprofit group of business people and citizens working to improve the economy in a very rural and impoverished county in a poor state. This amount represents almost 20 percent of our annual budget. The money could be better used here to build support for the project.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

E. Estil Hughes Jr.
President

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JUL 17 2002

Part of
Public Record

lex 23

FILED

FEE RECEIVED

JUL 08 2002

JUL 08 2002

SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Please correspond with me directly at HC 87 Box 90, Camden-on-Gauley, WV, 26208,
304.226.5834, fax 304.226.5051

WEBSTER COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PO BOX 4
WEBSTER SPRINGS, WV 26261



Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K. St. NW, Rm 711
Washington, DC 20423

Re: CSX Transportation Inc, Abandonment-Webster County West Virginia (AB-55 Sub-no, 603X)

Dear Mr. Williams:

This comment should be treated as a protest or a petition for reconsideration in the above-captioned proceeding. This comment is filed on behalf of Webster County Chamber Of Commerce which is a private public interest organization interested in economic development through tourism, which is hereinafter referred to as 'Commenter'.

While not taking a position on the merits of this abandonment, Commenter requests issuance of a Public Use Condition as well as a Certificate or Notice of Interim Trail Use rather than an outright abandonment authorization between Cowen and Bolair West Virginia.

A. Public Use Condition

Commenter requests the STB to find that this property is suitable for other public use, specifically trail use, and to place the following conditions on the abandonment.

1. An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than the tracks, ties, and signal equipment, except of public use on reasonable terms. The justification for this condition is that the rail corridor in question will complement a current project that joins the Depots of Richwood and Cowen West Virginia. The corridor would make an excellent recreational trail and conversion of the property to trail use is in accordance with local plans. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Commenter needs this much time to assemble and review title information, complete a trail plan and commence negotiations with the carrier.
2. An order barring removal or destruction of potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles, culverts and tunnels. The justification for this condition is that these structures have considerable value for recreational trail purposes. The time period requested is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization for the same reason as indicated above.

B. Interim Trail Use

The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for railbanking. In addition to the public use conditions sought above, Commenter also requests placement of the right of way in the rail bank and issuance of A Certificate or Notice of Interim Trail Use.

STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

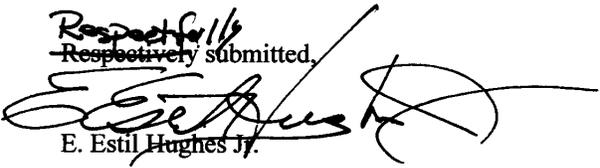
In order to establish interim trail use and rail banking under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d), and 49 C.F.R. 1152.29. Webster County Chamber of Commerce is willing to assume full responsibility for said property, and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the said right-of-way owned and operated by CSX Transportation Inc.

The property extends from Cowen, WV to Bolair, WV, a distance of 10.5 miles in Webster County, West Virginia. The right-of-way is part of a line of a railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-no 603 x).

Webster County Chamber of Commerce acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to the user's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

By my signature below, I certify service upon CSX Transportation Inc, by U.S Mail, postage prepaid, first class, this 31st day of May, 2002.

~~Respectfully~~
~~Respectively submitted,~~


E. Estil Hughes Jr.

On behalf of: Webster County Chamber of Commerce
CF:

Natalie S. Rosenberg, Counsel, CSX Transportation, 500 Water Street J150,
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Harold Simmons, WVDOT Charleston, WV 25305

Mary Perry, WVDOT, Charleston, WV 25305

Brian Yourish, Rails to Trails Conservancy, 1100 Seventeenth St. Washington, DC
20036