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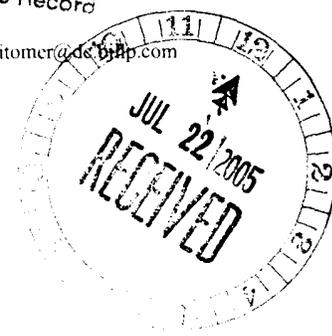
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July 22, 2005

Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Room 700
Washington, D. C. 20423

FILED

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SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

214389

RE: Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 635X), *CSX Transportation, Inc.—
Abandonment Exemption—in Gratiot County, MI*

Dear Secretary Williams:

The Friends of Fred Meijer Heartland Trail (Heartland Trail) requested a notice of interim trail use/rail banking for approximately 5.5 miles of railroad from milepost CBE-40.00 at Alma, to milepost CBE-45.5 at Elwell, in Gratiot County, MI in the above-entitled proceeding. The current extension of the negotiating period expires on July 22, 2005. CSX Transportation, Inc. ("CSXT") has not consummated the abandonment, has been unable to finalize negotiations with Heartland Trail, and desires to continue to negotiate for interim trail use/rail banking with Heartland Trail. CSXT respectfully requests the Board to grant a 180-day extension of time to January 18, 2006 to negotiate trail use with Heartland Trail. Additionally, CSXT respectfully requests an extension of the date to consummate the abandonment to March 19, 2006.

Enclosed are the original and 10 copies of this letter, and a filing fee of \$350. Please time and date stamp the additional copy of this letter and return it with our messenger. Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions please call or email me.

Sincerely yours

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

cc: Ms. Kane

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