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September 11, 2006

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The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K. Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 431X) BNSF Railway Company—
Abandonment Exemption—in Knox and Fulton Counties, IL**

Dear Secretary Williams:

In reply to the Farmington Rails to Trails Coalition's letter to you dated August 31, 2006, BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") opposes the issuance of a Notice of Interim Trails Use since BNSF needs the properties to support its ongoing rail operations.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 338-1325.

Sincerely,

Sidney L. Strickland, Jr. / ssn
Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.
Attorney for
BNSF Railway Company

Cc: Steven C. Etcheson
Jake DeBoever
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