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February 5, 2007

Charles D. Nottingham, Chair
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20423-0001

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By fax to 202-565-9013

Dear Mr. Nottingham,

We plead for an exception to your rules to allow a two-week extension for reply to your Decision, Docket Number AB 6 430 X.

The concerned citizens whom I am representing have had little knowledge of technical matters concerning railroad abandonment issues and the associated role of the Surface Transportation Board. We were unaware of the publication on October 13, 2005, by BNSF and the Stillwater Central Railroad of its notice of abandonment and of its implications for abandonment. Although we read, several months later, your related decision of November 10, 2005, we still did not then realize that important related options were provided to citizens and various entities, and accordingly took no action but rather awaited your final decision. Because of the considerable time between then and now, we thought it possible that the STB would rule in favor of petitioners and forbid abandonment of the line, which is also an objective of Common Cause Oklahoma.

Now we have learned the meaning of an OFA and have sought and last week obtained important information from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation through the freedom of information act. I am pleased to write that ODOT has been very cooperative in this matter.

We need a two-week extension of time to obtain additional information including such as the following: a) An estimate of net liquidation value as provided by the railroads; this, of course, is tightly related to the amount of money that would have to be raised for purchase of the rail line; b) the prospect of obtaining sufficient money from interested investors; c) the prospect of provision of some services involving the Union Terminal, which we ardently seek to preserve; d) the prospect of freight business from at least four enterprises that we know to be located along the 2.5 mile segment.

Mr. Nottingham, if we fail to come up with an offer for purchase of the two and a half mile railroad segment, it seems to us that your decision would not be impacted in any material way. It could still be effective on the announced date of February 25th. We do pray that you and the STB will help us to find a way to prevent Oklahoma, during its centennial year, from becoming the last place in the United States to remove railroad tracks and the functional capability of a terminal building in excellent condition, in favor of increased automobile travel. We also seek to demonstrate that preservation of existing facilities would provide some energy efficient transportation and a partial answer to the need to limit emissions of greenhouse gases. The alternative is a construction project that has been roundly condemned by a former OKC Planning Director and by a transportation authority formerly with the World Bank, will remove grade-separated crossings, will cost half a billion dollars, and bring more damaging ozone to Oklahoma City.

Thank you very much for consideration.

Sincerely yours,



cc: Vernon A. Williams, Secretary, Sfc. Transportation Board - By fax to 202-565-9019
Sidney Strickland, Esq., Attorney, BNSF, By fax to 202-672-5399
Karl Morell, Esq., Attorney, Stillwater Central Railroad - By fax to 202-783-6974
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