

226026

LAW OFFICES OF  
LOUIS E. GITOMER

LOUIS E. GITOMER  
LOU\_GITOMER@VERIZON.NET

THE ADAMS BUILDING, SUITE 301  
600 BALTIMORE AVENUE  
TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204-4022  
(202) 466-6532  
FAX (410) 332-0885

November 19, 2009

Cynthia T. Brown  
Chief of the Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20423

RE: Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 691X), *CSX Transportation, Inc. -  
Abandonment Exemption-in Worcester County, MA*

**EXPEDITED HANDLING REQUESTED**

Dear Ms. Brown:

By Notice of Exemption served on November 20, 2008, in the above-entitled proceeding, the Surface Transportation Board (the "Board") provided that the abandonment of the CSX Transportation, Inc. ("CSXT") 4.2-mile line of railroad between milepost QBU 0.0 (Fitchburg) and milepost QBU 4.2 (Leominster), in Worcester County, MA (the "Line") would become effective on December 20, 2008, and that until November 20, 2009 CSXT could effect abandonment. CSXT respectfully requests the Board to grant an extension of the consummation date until November 20, 2010.

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §1152.29(e)(2), for good cause shown, a railroad may request extension of the consummation date. CSXT has been negotiating the sale of the entire corridor with the cities of Leominster and Fitchburg (the "Cities"). If CSXT were to consummate the abandonment, the Cities would not be able to acquire the portion of the corridor that CSXT does not own in fee without negotiating with the reversionary land owners or bringing eminent domain actions in Massachusetts. Either action would prolong the process and increase the costs to the Cities. CSXT is willing to extend the consummation deadline to help the Cities acquire the entire line without added expense.

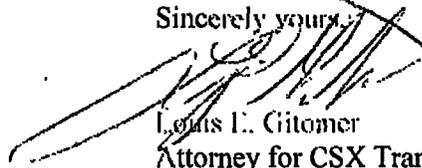
The Board recently found good cause and granted an extension of the date to consummate an abandonment to the BNSF Railway Company where it was negotiating "with King County regarding trail use and other matters involving related rail lines." *BNSF Railway Company-Abandonment Exemption-in King County, WA*, STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 463X) (STB served September 25, 2009).

CSXT is negotiating for the sale of the Line to the Cities. One of the options is for the Cities to acquire the Line for trail use, but the parties have not reached agreement to date. CSXT contends that it has shown good cause for the Board to extend the consummation date of the instant abandonment to November 20, 2010.

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown  
November 19, 2009  
Page 2

This letter is being efiled. Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis L. Citomer", written over the typed name.

Louis L. Citomer  
Attorney for CSX Transportation, Inc.

Cc: Parties of Record