

January 1, 2007

Vernon A. Williams
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423

RE: STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 286)
Norfolk Southern Railway Company – Adverse Abandonment – St. Joseph County, IN

Dear Sir:

I recommend that the STB support the application by the City of South Bend, et. al., requesting that the Board authorize the abandonment of 3.7 miles of railroad lines owned by the Norfolk Southern Railway Co.

I frequently commute by bicycle, and the City's plan to make this route a recreational path would make my commute safer and easier. Further, it would strengthen the City's system of cycle and recreational paths contributing to the amenities of city living and reducing the use of fossil fuel.

I hope the STB will be responsive to the voice of citizens concerned with both the quality of city living and the urban blight that accompanies abandoned and unused rail lines.

Certificate of Service: I certify that I sent, via email, copies of this document to the following persons at the following email addresses: Jeffrey M. Jankowski (jjankowski@SouthBendIN.gov) and Richard Streeter (richard.streeter@BTLaw.com)

Sincerely,

James K. McConnell
1737 Belmont Ave
South Bend, IN 46615
kmc@saintmarys.edu