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August 13, 2008

Via U S Mail

Ms Anne Quinlan  
Acting Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, N W  
Washington, D C 20424

Re Docket No AB-506 (Sub-No 1X), Sault Ste Marie Bridge Company  
- Abandonment Exemption - in Dickinson County, Michigan

Dear Ms Quinlan

Sault Ste Marie Bridge Company does not object to the request for an interim trail use and rail banking condition in the above-referenced proposed abandonment in the form that request is made by the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources in their July 31, 2008. correspondence This correspondence is incorporated herein by reference The railroad intends to negotiate for a possible interim trail use/rail banking agreement with the DNR

Ten copies of this letter are enclosed Please feel free to call me if you have any questions

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J Healey  
Attorney for Sault Ste Marie Bridge Company

Encls

cc Mr James Radabaugh

Law

Thomas J Healey  
Counsel - Regulatory

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STATE OF MICHIGAN

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNORDEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANDINGREBECCA A. HUMPHRIES  
DIRECTOR

July 31, 2008

223066

Ms. Anne K. Quinlan  
Acting Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

VIA FACSIMILE

**FILING FEE WAIVED**

Dear Mr. Williams:

**SUBJECT: Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company - Abandonment Exemption - in Dickinson County, Michigan, STB Docket No AB-506 (Sub-No. IX)**

This request is filed on behalf of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, which is a government agency interested in recreation and natural resources, hereinafter referred to as "proponent."

Proponent requests issuance of a Public Use Condition, as well as an Interim Trail Use Condition, rather than an outright abandonment authorization between milepost 29.60 and milepost 30.24 in Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan.

#### A. Request For Public Use Condition

Proponent asks the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to find that this property is suitable for other public use, specifically trail use, and to place the following conditions on the abandonment:

1. An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than the tracks, ties and signal equipment, except for public use on reasonable terms. Justification for this condition is: The corridor would make an excellent recreational trail and provides an extension of a rail corridor already developed for trail use by proponent. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Proponent needs this much time to conduct appraisal and title review and begin negotiations with the carrier.

2. An order barring removal or destruction of potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles, culverts and tunnels. The justification for this condition is that these structures have considerable value for recreational trail purposes. The time period requested is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization for the same reason as indicated above.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Keth J. Charters-Chen • Mary Brown • Bob Garner • Gerald Hall • John Madigan • Frank Wheatlake

STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING • P.O. BOX 30025 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7525  
www.michigan.gov/dnr • (313) 373-6329

**Ms. Anne K. Quinlan**

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**July 31, 2008**

**B. Request For Interim Trail Use**

The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for railbanking. In addition to the public use conditions sought above, proponent also makes the following request:

**STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

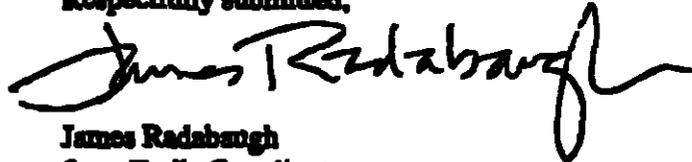
In order to establish interim trail use and railbanking under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. §1247(d), and 49 CFR §1152.29, the proponent is willing to assume full responsibility for management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of, and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way owned by and operated by Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company.

The property extends from railroad milepost 29.60 and 30.24 in Iron Mountain, a distance of 0.64 miles in Dickinson County, Michigan. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No AB-506 (Sub-No. 1X).

A map depicting the right-of-way is attached. Proponent acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to the user's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

By my signature below, I certify service upon Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company, c/o Thomas J. Healy, 17641 S. Ashland Ave., Homewood, IL 60430-1345, by U.S. Mail, postage pre-paid, first class, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

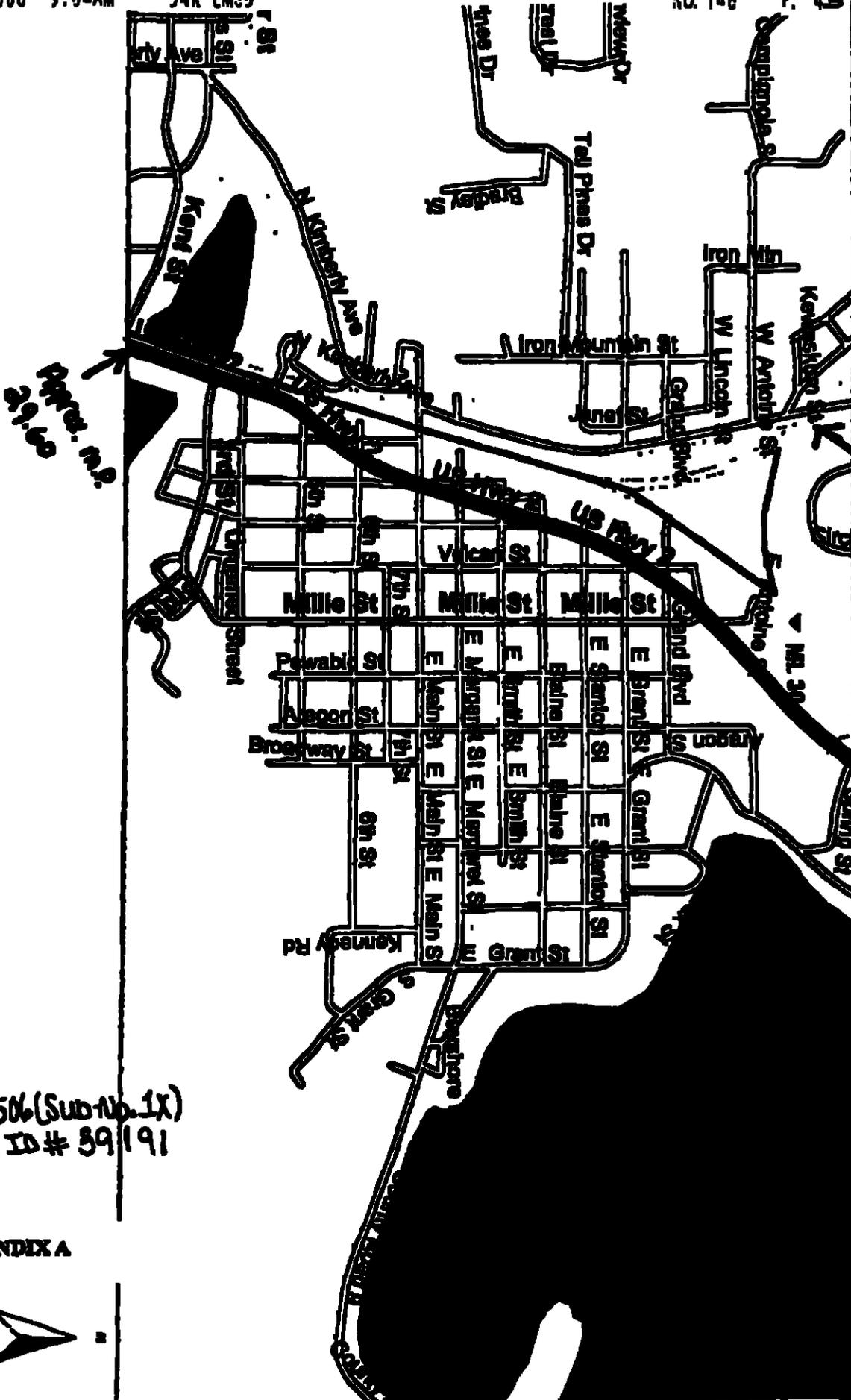


**James Radabaugh  
State Trails Coordinator  
Recreation and Trails Section  
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division  
517-373-1276**

**on behalf of the Michigan Department of  
Natural Resources**

JR/r

**cc: Mr. Thomas J. Healy, Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Company  
Mr. Robert Fowler, Rail Property Management  
Mr. Thomas Courchaine, DNR  
Mr. David Freed, DNR**



STB AB-506 (Sub No. 1X)  
 Decision ID # 39191

APPENDIX A

