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Ms. Cynthia Brown
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street S. W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Brown:

Please accept this letter regarding Indiana Rail Road Abandonment Exemption--Martin and Lawrence Counties, Indiana STB Docket No. AB-295 (Sub-No7x).

I am requesting a public hearing on the above mentioned docket.

On behalf of the Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce, please be advised that we object to the Indiana Railroad's application for abandonment of the above mentioned rail line.

Lawrence County has had to face a recession that has resulted in companies cutting back, expansions put on hold, or being unable to create new business opportunities. Removing the rail is another negative that will impact our businesses and industries. While rail has not been utilized to its fullest potential, the abandonment will take away another economic development opportunity for our county. In today's world, we need every tool we can summon to attract and retain industry.

Crane Naval Surface Warfare would have only one rail outlet if this were to happen. The lack of another rail out could have an adverse impact on Crane in future Base Realignment and Closure Hearings. Crane does business with some of the largest employers in South Central Indiana and is vital to our economy.

If Lawrence County loses the availability of rail service, businesses looking to locate in our area will remove us from their list before we get a chance to discuss our potentials.

So you must see the significance of this decision - we implore you to give any assistance you can to Bedford, Lawrence and Martin County in this critical decision. It will be greatly appreciated. Our growth and future depends on it.

Sincerely,

Adele Bowden-Purlee
President

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