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July 1, 2010

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Public Record

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief of the Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Docket number AB 415 2 X

Dear Ms. Brown,

It is with great concern that I write today regarding the abandonment petition submitted by Escanaba and Lake Superior Railroad proposing to discontinue a line of track between Ontonagon and Houghton counties in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The economic strength and attraction of this area is dependent on its transportation infrastructure. As the Village of Ontonagon, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Regional Commission, the offices of Governor Granholm, U.S. Senator Stabenow, Congressman Stupak as well as my office collaborate to assist Ontonagon County rebound after the loss of Smurfit Stone paper mill, it would seem that the removal of this mode of transportation could cause this distressed community further set-back.

In making your decision, I ask that the Surface Transportation Board heavily weigh the interests of this community and the potential impact to the region as a whole. I understand you expect to make a decision by July 28, 2010, and I respectfully request on behalf of the Ontonagon community that you delay your pending decision .

I thank you for your consideration. Please keep me informed of your progress, by contacting my aide, Ms. Amy Berglund in the Escanaba office listed below.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
Carl Levin

CL/ab

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