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August 17, 2018

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
Washington, DC 20423

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RE: Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No.779X)

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a Senior Director of Site Selection for Team NEO, a non-profit regional economic development organization. Team NEO enhances the economy of Northeast Ohio by collaborating with our partners in 18 counties in Northeast Ohio, including Trumbull and Mahoning Counties, and others to attract new businesses, help those that are here grow and accelerate the impact of innovation in the region. We also help bring together local, regional and state resources to raise the profile of the region and make the case for investment in Northeast Ohio, focusing on proven businesses that will contribute to the region's success. We are working hard to identify land sites with infrastructure suitable to attract industrial/manufacturing projects. The Warren BDM site is a very important site in our inventory.

I am writing in support of the efforts made by BDM Warren Steel Holdings, LLC and Trumbull County MetroParks to take an economic asset and develop it into something that will provide future value for both industrial and recreational use. We ask that the Surface Transportation Board take the necessary actions to allow for the 13.9-mile corridor to be left intact to allow for its intended use. Given the scarcity of developable acreage with rail access, and the economic opportunities contingent on this rail line (emphasized in the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber's Support Statement), the abandonment of this line should not be permitted.

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary B. Cierebiej, AICP

cc: all parties of record

