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Brad Cole, Mayor

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December 13, 2007

Chairman Charles D "Chip" Nottingham
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE Docket # 35087

Dear Mr Chairman

On behalf of the City of Carbondale, Illinois, I hereby file this Notice of Intent to participate as a Party of Record with regard to Docket #35087

The City of Carbondale's interest in this matter is to preserve a means of public transportation between Carbondale and Chicago. The proposed plan would eliminate the current St. Charles Airline Route which is currently the only means for the Saluki, the Illini and the City of New Orleans Amtrak trains to access Chicago via Union Station. The applicant states "that the Control Transaction would not affect passenger rail service operating on the CNR rail lines today," however, no formal agreements for an alternative route have been offered as part of the application.

Carbondale is the home of Southern Illinois University (SIU) with an enrollment of over 22,000 students. On October 30, 2006, two additional passenger trains were added between Carbondale and Chicago. This has resulted in a 67% increase in ridership on the Saluki and Illini trains alone. For Carbondale, this is an increase of 16.8% in ridership. In real numbers, this translates to 91,000 persons per year or 250 people per day through the Carbondale station. The majority of these riders are students from the Chicago metro area attending SIU.

It is the City of Carbondale's position that a formal plan for an alternative to accommodate these passengers should be included in these proceedings. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

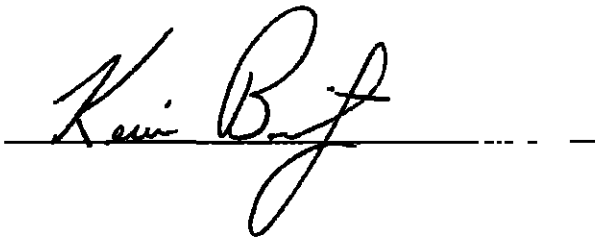
Yours very truly,

MAYOR BRAD COLE

The Capital of Southern Illinois

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document was mailed, in Carbondale, Illinois by placing it in a first class stamped envelope on December 13, 2007, to the following:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin B. J.", is written over a horizontal line.

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