



November 21st, 2017

244777

Ann D Begeman, Acting Chairman
Deb Miller, Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
November 29, 2017
Part of
Public Record

Re: STB Docket No AB-1258 *Alloy Property Company, LLC - Adverse Abandonment – Chicago Terminal Railroad in Chicago, IL*

Dear Acting Chairman Begeman and Member Miller:

Friends of Goose Island ("FOGI") was formed by major employers and property owners on Goose Island to make our evolving area into a more competitive and dynamic urban environment. Our goal is to promote better infrastructure, open-space, amenities, an active riverfront and connections to the vibrant neighborhoods that surround our unique and well-located 160 acre island.

We are writing to express our support for Alloy Property Company LLC's ("Alloy's") Application for Adverse Abandonment of the Chicago Terminal Railroad's ("CTR's") line located between the western side of North Elston Avenue and the intersection of N. North Branch and North Halsted Streets in the Goose Island area of Chicago (the "Line") in the above-referenced proceeding.

We understand that Alloy has plans to redevelop their Lincoln Yards property into a modern, mixed-use development that is centrally located on the Chicago riverfront. Alloy's redevelopment plans as well as proposed developments for Goose Island are consistent with the City of Chicago's land-use development plans. For example, the City of Chicago's recently adopted North Branch Framework Plan calls for the redevelopment of this area of Chicago, which includes Goose Island, to foster new mixed-use neighborhoods, just like the development proposed by Alloy. Alloy's redevelopment plans will benefit local residents as well as Chicago as a whole.

In contrast, the continued existence of the CTR Line provides little or no benefit to the Chicago community. To our knowledge, no traffic serving rail customers has moved over the CTR Line in more than two years, and local businesses who once were CTR customers have either closed, relocated, or have begun using alternative modes of transportation.

We have found recent actions taken by the CTR Line to be un-neighborly. The rail line located on Cherry Street has not served rail customers for over two years. In August 2017, Iowa Pacific elected to store tank-cars in the middle of the streets and sidewalks of Goose Island. They did so without warning to the businesses on Goose Island. The storage of these tank-cars resulted in traffic issues and disrupted the many businesses on Goose Island.

We shared the Chicago Department of Transportation's (CDOT) public opinion that this has created an unsafe situation for pedestrians and motorists. We were pleased that CTR Line recently relocated these tank cars at the request of their customer.



The City of Chicago itself has recognized that freight rail service is no longer needed on this Line. In light of the City's support for abandonment, the significant benefits the Alloy redevelopment will bring to the community, and the lack of demand for rail service on the Line, we support abandonment of the Line.

We oppose the depositing of rail cars in the public right of way on Goose Island. We support Alloy Development's application for adverse abandonment and the City of Chicago's efforts to keep the streets and sidewalks of Goose Island safe.

We will continue to advocate for Goose Island to become a driver of economic growth and job creation for the City of Chicago, and a model for urban renewal and innovation nationally.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ZCupkovic".

Zachary Cupkovic
FOGI Board Member
1130 West Monroe
Chicago, IL 60607

I certify that on November 27, 2017 I served copies of the document upon all parties on the Service List in this proceeding, by First Class U.S. Mail.

Signature /s/ Alec Weingart

Date__November 29, 2017_____