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December 30, 2002

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary, Surface Transportation Board
Mercury Building, Room 700
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

**Re: STB Financial Docket No. 34281 LB Railco, Inc. - Lease and Operation
Exemption - Providence and Worcester Railroad Company**

Dear Secretary Williams:

We are writing to express our concerns regarding a proposed solid waste transfer station to be constructed and operated by LB Railco, Inc., in Millbury, Massachusetts. Because of the significant environmental impacts from this project, we request that the Surface Transportation Board (the "Board") require an environmental analysis, including the preparation of a full environmental impact statement. Alternatively, we ask that the Board determine that LB Railco's proposed solid waste transfer station is not, as it claims, exempt from local and state permitting requirements, and thereby allow for its review in accordance with local and state laws.

LB Railco proposes to locate its solid waste transfer station on land that is within 50 feet of the Blackstone River. Located downgradient from the proposed site and adjacent to the Blackstone River are two municipal water supply wells. The designated wellhead protection area for the water supply wells include the location of the proposed site, and we understand that these wells are influenced by the river. We use and drink water from municipal sources. We are concerned that the siting of a solid waste transfer station at this location, and the effects of stormwater runoff to the river, would adversely impact the river and the municipal water supply wells.

The Blackstone River is the primary natural resource in our community and the focus of our Town's cultural heritage. In 1986, the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission was established by Congress to promote, among other things, the protection of this resource. We are concerned that the location of the transfer station in close proximity to the river, and

within Corridor, will adversely affect or cause loss or destruction to this significant resource, and thereby the quality of our lives.

Located between the land to be used by LB Railco for the transfer station and the Blackstone River is a new bicycle trail and pedestrian path. We use the path and are concerned that dust, noise and emissions from loading equipment and trucks will impact adversely the bike path and our ability to use and enjoy the bike path.

Finally, we are concerned that cumulative of impacts from noise, air pollution, runoff and truck traffic would adversely impact not only our Town, and its character, and the neighborhoods proximate to the facility, but also the public schools located nearby. We are fearful that the public health impacts from outdoor waste handling and processing operations, especially to our school children, may be significant. To date, however, none of these potentially significant impacts have been adequately examined or addressed.

Consequently, we request that the Board require an environmental assessment, including the preparation of a full environmental impact statement ("EIS") in connection with LB Railco's proposed solid waste transfer station. By requiring an EIS, the Board will assure that the issues we identify above will be addressed and that we will have a full and fair opportunity to comment upon a project which, if allowed, will substantially impact our lives. Alternatively, we request that the Board reject LB Railco's claim that its solid waste transfer operation is exempt from local and state review and permitting requirements. By rejecting LB Railco's Notice of Exemption, the Board would thereby allow for proper review and permitting under local and state laws governing public health, safety and welfare and the environment, and we would be assured that a public process is in place that would allow us to express our concerns regarding the environmental and other impacts from this project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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cc: John F. McHugh, Esq.
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