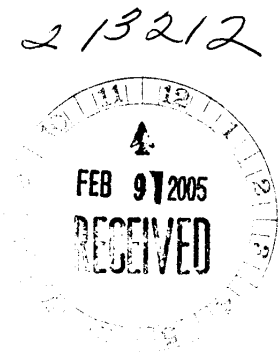


CAMPBELL COUNTY TENNESSEE

JERRY E. CROSS
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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February 2, 2005

Honorable Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: **Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 259X)**

Dear Mr. Williams:

I am contacting you regarding the announced desire and intent of Norfolk Southern Railway Company to go forward with abandonment of the rail between Milepost TE 27.96 and Milepost TE 41.60, a distance of 13.64 miles from Nick's Creek to Devonia that impacts Campbell, Scott, and Union Counties Tennessee.

Speaking at the bequest of the County Mayors of all these counties, we would advise you and the Surface Transportation Board that our unified position is one of opposition to the abandonment process for this section of rail. This abandonment would generate an adverse impact to the transportation of goods and products, result in severe infrastructure degrading (highways), and result in the loss of substantial numbers of anticipated new and financially attractive workforce positions for our economically distressed geographical area of Appalachian.

We are willing to work with the Board and Norfolk Southern in an attempt to form an operational scenario and that will be beneficial to all interests. In achieving such a common position, we respectfully request that you review this issue and advise us of options that may be available and feasible for all parties to pursue. We await your review and advise on this most urgent matter.

With regards,

Jerry E. Cross, County Mayor

JEC/jw

CC: Mayor Rex Lynch, Anderson County Mayor Dwight Murphy, Scott County
State Senator Tommy Kilby Congressman Lincoln Davis

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