

#E1-20454



Lyn Brumby Allen, Director
Economic Development

February 5, 2014

Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC

Dear Madam/Sir:

The Hartwell Railroad Company is seeking to establish an interchange with CSX Transportation in Elberton, GA under Docket Number FD 35756. The establishment of this interchange track will reinstate service which was lost with Norfolk Southern Corporation's abandonment of two miles of track in Elberton in 1995. The establishment of this interchange track will greatly enhance local business' access to both east coast Class I railroads and the resultant economic benefit. This area of Georgia has only minimal infrastructure and access to this additional rail service will provide tremendous benefit to this economically struggling region.

In particular, it will give our existing industries, and potential new industries, access to another Class I railroad's direct points without the undue burden and cost of using two Class I railroads for delivery. This will result in improved transit times as well as creating a more competitive economic environment. Access to vendors and customers in new markets that have been cost prohibitive in the past due to transportation will be a direct benefit. During the last 40 of 48 months the unemployment rate in Franklin County, Georgia, has been a double digit percentage. This CSX connection will give us a greater opportunity to attract new companies and create new jobs.

We strongly support the approval of Hartwell Railroad Company's Petition for construction of this interchange under the above docket number. The benefit will not only help our communities and our region, it will improve the transportation infrastructure as the United States economy moves forward. Since rail maintains its infrastructure, it will aid in getting trucks off of the highways, which are already in need of significant improvements. We see nothing but a Win-Win for everyone with your approval of this Petition, and we ask for your most careful consideration and approval.

Sincerely,

Lyn Brumby Allen

Lyn Brumby Allen
Director of Economic Development

"Where You Want To Invest"

OFFICE: 706-384-5112 | FAX: 706-384-3204
P.O. BOX 151 | 165 ATHENS STREET | CARNESVILLE, GEORGIA 30521
WWW.FRANKLIN-COUNTY.COM | IBA@FRANKLIN-COUNTY.COM