

LAWRENCE
COUNTY

ECONOMIC
GROWTH
COUNCIL

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Barbara Wright, RE/Max Real Estate Center

January 6, 2010

Ms. Rachel D. Campbell, Director
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street S. W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

FEB 18 2010

Part 1
Public Record

Dear Ms. Campbell:

This letter relates to the Indiana Rail Road Abandonment Exemption—Martin and Lawrence Counties, Indiana STB Docket No. AB-295 (Sub-No7x).

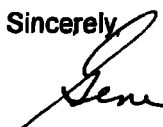
I am writing to you on behalf of the Lawrence County Economic Growth Council to openly object to the Indiana Railroad's application for abandonment of the above mentioned rail line. Please reject this abandonment exemption on behalf of present and future economic development opportunities for the citizens of Bedford and Lawrence County, Indiana.

We realize there are many considerations in the making of decisions such as discontinuance of service and railroad abandonment. The Indiana Railroad did not give us the opportunity to try and help to create business for them by first beginning with a discontinuance of service process. Rather, they immediately filed an application for total abandonment. Unfortunately for us all, not just Lawrence County but the entire nation, we have had to face a recession that has driven companies to cut back, not expand, or presently be able to create new business opportunities. However, having said this, we believe we are beginning to see a light at the end of the railroad tunnel (no pun intended) in that the economy seems to be picking up rather rapidly. The people of Bedford and Lawrence County have put ourselves in a position to come out of the recession quickly and be ready to tackle many new business opportunities. But, just when we see things starting to recover, we are faced with the situation described above with the Indiana Railroad and their petition for abandonment.

Please note that if the Growth Council as an economic development organization does not have the availability of rail service, businesses looking to locate in our area will mark us off their list before even speaking to our organization. Site search directors have all told me it is a process of elimination first, and then, if you meet all their criteria, they will come and talk with you about their particular business prospect. So, Ms. Campbell, please help us, to help the Indiana Railroad grow their business by denying their application for abandonment and maybe by working together within the Region and State, we can develop new economic development opportunities. Because if you allow abandonment to take place at this time, you will have crippled our future opportunities for economic growth.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Gene McCracken, Executive Director
Lawrence County Economic Growth Council