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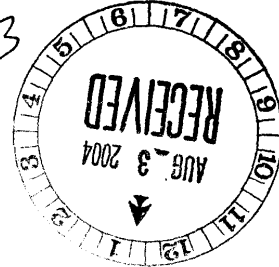
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ORIGINAL

August 3, 2004

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

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**SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

RE: Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 635X), *CSX Transportation, Inc.—
Abandonment Exemption—in Gratiot County, MI*

Dear Secretary Williams:

The Friends of Fred Meijer Heartland Trail (Heartland Trail) requested a notice of interim trail use/rail banking for approximately 5.5 miles of railroad from milepost CBE-40.00 at Alma, to milepost CBE-45.5 at Elwell, in Gratiot County, MI in the above-entitled proceeding. The current extension of the negotiating period expired on July 23, 2004. Even though the previous extension has expired, CSX Transportation, Inc. ("CSXT") has not consummated the abandonment, has been unable to finalize negotiations with Heartland Trail, and desires to continue to negotiate for interim trail use/rail banking with Heartland Trail, CSXT respectfully requests the Board to reinstate and grant a six month extension of time to January 23, 2005 to negotiate trail use with Heartland Trail. Additionally, CSXT respectfully requests an extension of the date to consummate the abandonment to March 23, 2005.

Enclosed are the original and 10 copies of this letter, and a filing fee of \$300. Please time and date stamp the additional copy of this letter and return it with our messenger. Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions please call or email me.

Sincerely yours,

Louis E. Gitomer
Attorney for: CSX Transportation, Inc.

cc: Ms. Kane

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Office of Proceedings

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