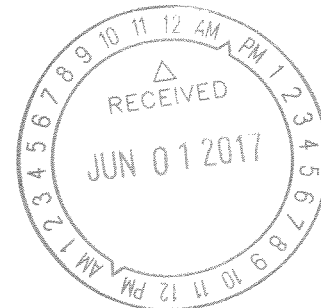


Glasco Properties, LLC

135 Depot Street
P.O. Box 1148
Hartwell, Georgia 30643



May 23, 2017

243854

Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
295 E Street SW
Washington, DA 20024

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
June 1, 2017
Part of
Public Record

Re: Hartwell First United Methodist Church – Adverse Abandonment and Discontinuance
Docket No. AB 1242
Comments of Kay Chapman

Dear Ms. Brown:

This letter is to support the request of Hartwell First United Methodist Church for adverse abandonment and discontinuance authority for the rail line in Hartwell, Georgia, between Athens Street and the end of the rail line at South Forest Avenue. I requested your contact information from the Church.

I have owned a warehouse on the north side of the railroad right-of-way between Webb Street and Jackson Street since July, 2000. I operate a candle business and utilize storage at this location. The property at one point was owned by R. P. Clinkscales. Adjacent to my building are some tracks that I believe were originally installed as a sidetrack to allow the original railroad to provide service to Clinkscales. I understand a copy of the Clinkscales Industrial Sidetrack Agreement was included as an exhibit to the Church's Application. Adjacent to my property the railroad owns a 12-foot wide right-of-way.

I understand that the railroad has indicated it has plans to reinstall the crossings of Webb Street and reconnect the tracks. I object to the return of active rail service adjacent to my building and to the use of the spur track for any purpose other than to serve my building. I do not believe the railroad has the right to use the spur track for other purposes, and I have the right, as the successor owner to Clinkscales, to terminate the Sidetrack Agreement at any time on 60 days' notice.

I am not aware of any businesses along the line that need or want railroad service. I have heard the railroad may try to use the line for long-term storage of old, unused rail cars. Such use would not be compatible with the nature and character of Hartwell, and would in fact hinder the downtown development. Use of the tracks for car storage does not seem necessary since the railroad has unused track on the west side of Athens Street, and has long stored rail cars on its tracks closer to Bowersville.

Since the time that the railroad stopped providing service behind our building, the character of this area of Hartwell has changed. There are currently no rail served industries along the line,

former customers having closed, or like our location, no longer require rail service. There has been an attempt to bring more people into downtown. TORCH is developing the end of the line and the depot area as a public space for a park, play ground and farmers' market, and has plans ultimately to expand to the right-of-way between Jackson Street and Webb Street behind our building. Since the right-of-way is only 12-foot wide, the public use by TORCH is clearly inconsistent with active railroad operations or storage of rail cars.

I support the request of the Church to require that the railroad permanently abandon the rail line.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Glasco", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Rick Glasco
President, Owner
Glasco Properties, LLC
P. O. Box 1148
Hartwell, Georgia 30643
Phone # 706-201-6220

Cc: Joe Whittemore, Hartwell First UMC, 200 E. Howell Street, Hartwell, Georgia 30643

Certificate of Service

By my signature below, I certify that a copy of this letter has been sent, by e-mail and U.S. mail, on May 23, 2017 to all parties of record.

Rick Glasco

Glasco Properties, LLC