

**KEYSTONE STATE
RAILROAD ASSOCIATION**

www.ksrra.com

Joseph H. Gerdes III

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November 23, 2010

Surface Transportation Board

Attn: Danielle Gosselin, Section of Environmental Analysis

395 E Street, SW

Washington DC 20423

RE: Environmental Filing FD 35116

Honorable Board:

I am writing on behalf of the Keystone State Railroad Association (KSRRA) a trade association representing the freight rail industry in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As an association, one of our main goals is to advance the use, retention and expansion freight railroads in Pennsylvania and we would like to voice our support of RJ Corman Railroad Company's Beech Creek proposal.

As you well know, the amount of freight traffic projected to travel through the northeast in the next 10 to 15 plus years will greatly strain our highways and infrastructure, particularly here in Pennsylvania. Freight railroads will be an important "pressure relief valve" to help our transportation network operate effectively and efficiently. Unfortunately, Pennsylvania lost much of its railroad track miles over the past fifty years and we as an industry are forced to push hard for costly reinvestment and reestablishment of these vital rail corridors. This is especially important for smaller communities to have a shot at any economic revival that the future may bring. Communities where building or enlarging a highway is simply not an option.

This project is a prime example of a significant private investment back into our Commonwealth's transportation system. As part of the larger rail freight network, the rebuilding of this rail corridor will create further employment locally by RJ Corman but will also spur new jobs along the network. It will also provide an energy efficient and environmentally attractive alternative to using truck transportation. I encourage you move swiftly to help Pennsylvania's modern transportation infrastructure build for the future.

Sincerely,

Joseph H Gerdes III
Executive Director