

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

E121122

JAMES R. MICELI
REPRESENTATIVE
19TH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
TEWKSBURY • WILMINGTON
TEL (978) 658-9797

Public Service
Elder Affairs

ROOM 237, STATE HOUSE
TEL (617) 722-2305
FAX (617) 722-2847

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

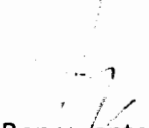
Ms. Rutson,

I am writing to you regarding an ongoing environmental dispute in the town of Wilmington, Massachusetts. As you may be aware, the New Jersey-based company New England Transrail (NET) seeks to develop a rail-to-truck transloading operation on the site of a chemical waste facility formerly owned by the Olin Chemical Corporation. NET recently requested that the Surface Transportation Board reverse a 2012 decision, in which the Board declared that it would defer its environmental review until such a time when the Olin Chemical site had been sufficiently investigated. It has become abundantly clear through its actions that NET aims to bypass the standard environmental review procedures outlined by the Surface Transportation Board. To me and the citizens of my district, this shows the company's complete and utter disregard for the environmental safety of the town of Wilmington and the surrounding communities. In their drive to acquire the Olin property for commercial use, NET executives have displayed a pattern of unorthodox and deceptive behavior. The very idea of situating a disruptive transloading operation on a plot of contaminated land is preposterous, and the proposal should have never made it past the planning stages.

NET has attempted to short-circuit the proper protocol by asking the STB to reverse its prior decision, but the site should have never been approved for commercial use in the first place. As State Representative, I have been against the continued use of the Olin property from the very beginning. Some years ago I even traveled to Washington, DC using my own funds so that I could raise my voice on the issue. Alongside the late Senator Frank Lautenberg, I testified about the many dangers posed by commercial use of the Olin site. The Environmental Protection Agency should have never provided any amount of encouragement to New England Transrail, and I am deeply disturbed by the company's newfound efforts to subvert the Surface

Transportation Board's 2012 decision of deferment. NET's plan for the property is an abomination and should be treated as such. I urge you and your colleagues on the Surface Transportation Board to refrain from making the same mistake as the EPA in allowing this disastrous project to proceed any further.

Sincerely,


Representative James R. Miceli
19th Middlesex District