



**NATALIE S. ROSENBERG**  
Senior Counsel

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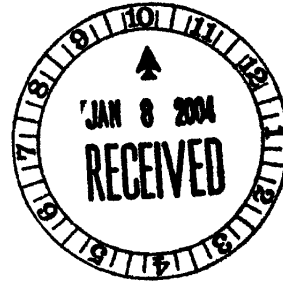
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**VIA AIRBORNE EXPRESS**

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
Mercury Building  
1925 K Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006

209803



**Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 643X)**  
**CSX Transportation, Inc. - Abandonment**  
**Exemption in LaPorte, Porter and Starke Counties, Indiana**

Dear Mr. Williams:

CSX Transportation, Inc. ("CSXT") is in receipt of the trail request filed on behalf of the Indiana Trails Fund and the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission in the above captioned matter. CSXT is willing to negotiate with these entities for trail purposes to the extent that the line is not necessary or desired for continued rail purposes. An entity has expressed some interest in purchasing at least a portion of the line for continued rail purposes. Additionally, CSXT has had discussions with one industry located on the line regarding post-abandonment use of a portion of the line for continued rail purposes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

*Natalie S. Rosenberg*  
Natalie S. Rosenberg

cc: Mr. Richard Vonnegut  
Indiana Trails Fund, Inc.  
Post Office Box 402  
Indianapolis, Indianapolis 46206-0402

Mr. Mitch Barloga  
Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission  
6100 Southport Road  
Portage, Indiana 46368