

COUNTY OF ELK

COMMISSIONERS

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Patrick E. Straub, Chief Clerk
MWB&K–Rick Brown, Solicitor

January 16, 2026

310765

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
January 20, 2026
Part of
Public Record

RE: STB Docket No. FD 36833 Lampwrights, LLC

To Whom it May Concern:

The Elk County Commissioners, Elk County Pennsylvania, strenuously object to the petition filed by Lampwrights, LLC (Lampwrights) for exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10901.

While it is unclear from the Office of Chief Counsel (OCC) Surface Transportation Board Decision decided December 22, 2025 narrative, it can be reasonably surmised that Lampwrights is petitioning for the exemption to avoid the required approval process to construct and operate a new rail line in Elk and Jefferson Counties, Pennsylvania.

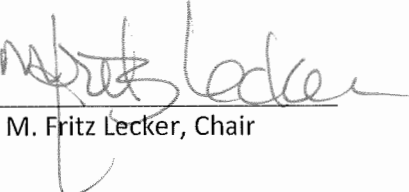
In granting this request for exemption to Lampwrights it would appear that two key approval requirements will be missed: the ability to determine whether Lampwrights fulfills the **Public Convenience & Necessity** test, and completing the **Environmental Assessment** that was previously required.

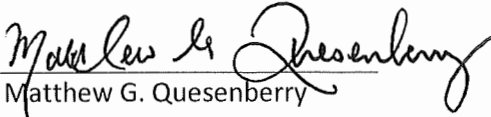
The Elk County Commissioners contend that meeting the **Public Convenience & Necessity** test will satisfy the legitimate concerns that reactivating the rail line, or constructing a new rail line may be detrimental to the adjacent property owners who may have a vested interest in maintaining what has been a long-standing assumption of ownership. Should there be a potential for private property disputes then it would be reasonable to request that Lampwrights further investigate possible land owner conflicts before moving forward with the project.

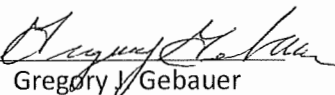
Secondly, there have been issues raised, including by the Elk County Commissioner's prior letter to the STB, that the area is environmentally sensitive and therefore a review of the potential environmental impacts of Lampwrights proposal on the air, water, wildlife, and cultural resources of the area must be undertaken. The **Environmental Assessment** called for as a condition of approval under 49 U.S.C. § 10901 will explore those issues and better inform the public on any environmental impacts.

We thank you in advance for your very thoughtful consideration of our response to Lampwrights exemption request, and implore the Surface Transportation Board to deny this request for the above stated reasons.

Very Truly Yours


M. Fritz Lecker, Chair


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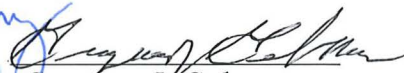
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on January 20, 2026, I caused to be served a copy of the STB Docket No. FD 36833 Lampwright, LLC upon all parties of record in this proceeding by email.


M. Fritz Lecker, Chair


Matthew G. Quesenberry


Gregory J. Gebauer

Dated: January 20, 2026

