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244755

November 20, 2017

Ann D. Begeman, Acting Chairman
Deb Miller, Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
November 21, 2017
Part of
Public Record

Re: STB Docket No AB-1258: Alloy Property Company, LLC –Adverse Abandonment – Chicago Terminal Railroad in Chicago, IL

Dear Acting Chairman Begeman and Member Miller:

I am writing to express my support for Alloy Property Company LLC's ("Alloy's") Application for Adverse Abandonment of the Chicago Terminal Railroad's ("CTR's") line located between the western side of North Elston Avenue and the intersection of N. North Branch and North Halsted Streets in the Goose Island area of Chicago (the "Line") in the above-referenced proceeding.

I understand that Alloy has plans to redevelop the property into a modern, mixed-use development that is centrally located on Chicago riverfront property. Alloy's redevelopment plans are consistent with the City of Chicago's land-use development plans. For example, the City of Chicago's recently adopted North Branch Framework Plan calls for the redevelopment of this area of Chicago, which includes Goose Island, to foster new mixed-use neighborhoods, just like the development proposed by Alloy. Alloy's redevelopment plans will benefit local residents as well as Chicago as a whole.

In contrast, the continued existence of the CTR Line provides little benefit to the Chicago community. No traffic has moved over the CTR Line in more than two years, and local businesses who once were CTR customers have either closed, relocated, or have begun using alternative modes of transportation. The City of Chicago itself has recognized that freight rail service is no longer needed on this Line. In light of the City's support for abandonment, the significant benefits the Alloy redevelopment will bring to the community, and the lack of demand for rail service on the Line, I support abandonment of the Line.

Sincerely,

Brian Hopkins
Alderman, 2nd Ward
City of Chicago