



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CONSULTANTS FOR KIDNEY DISEASE

Nephrology and Hypertension

January 25, 2008

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Charles D. Nottingham (Fax #202-245-0458)
Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board
Chicago, IL

RE: Finance Docket # 35087

Dear Mr. Nottingham:

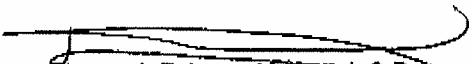
I want to go on record as strongly opposing the current plan to abandon the Air Line Route and certainly before funding for the Grand Crossing Route is complete and this new route is available for use. A significant delay in train travel between Southern Illinois and Chicago would have a significant negative impact on many of us who use the train for weekend trips to Chicago. In all likelihood the additional travel time would preclude our making those trips.

I suspect there are also a number of residents of Chicago who visit Southern Illinois. My mother, sister, and brother-in-law are three examples. Without the rail service tourism to Southern Illinois would diminish.

Amtrak service just recently improved by adding additional train between Centralia and Chicago. The proposal to abandon the Air Line Route negates the benefits of that extra train.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Sincerely,


Steven J. Zelman, M.D., F.A.C.P.

SZ/rd

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

Log and Distribution

Date Recd. _____

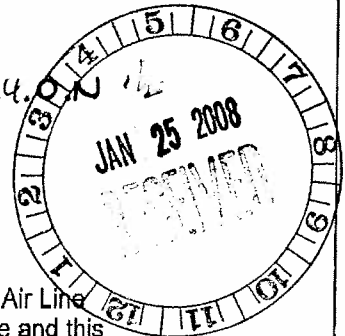
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HDR



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