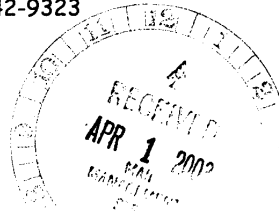


GREENE COUNTY ILLINOIS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE
519 N. Main, Carrollton, IL 62016

Phone: (217) 942-5124 Fax: (217) 942-9323

March 26, 2003

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings



The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

APR 1 2003

Part of
Public Record

RE: Docket No. AB-103 (Sub-No. 15) - 207501
Kansas City Southern Railway Company – Adverse Abandonment –
In St. Clair County, IL and

Docket No. AB-849 - 207502
Gateway Eastern Railway Company – Adverse Abandonment –
In St. Clair County, IL

Dear Sir:

The Greene County Illinois Economic Development Task Force would like to express our support for the Kansas City Southern Railway Company concerning the above mentioned docket numbers. The potential economic impact of a ruling against this railway will have a significant negative impact to our already depressed economy.

This county is primarily an agriculture based economy. Using only the local grain market in this example it is estimated that a ruling against the Kansas City Southern Railway Company would cost local grain producers an estimated \$480,000.00 in potential direct loss revenue from lower grain prices and higher transportation cost. This would then have an estimated negative impact of \$1,440,000.00 to our local economy which translates out to about \$97.00 per resident.

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The Greene County Illinois Economic Development Task Force feels potential negative decision to the railway, based on just one market segment of our economy, is too high a price to pay for our citizens. We ask that any decision would support the position of the Kansas City Southern Railway Company.

Sincerely



Kirby L. Ballard
Greene County Illinois Treasurer
President Greene County Illinois Economic Development Task Force

cc: Mr. Thomas J. Healey
The Kansas City Southern
Railway Company
427 West 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64105

Mr. William A. Mullins
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401 9th St. N.W.
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The Honorable Lane Evans
1535 47th Ave., Ste 5
Moline, IL 61265

The Honorable John M. Shimkus
3130 Chatham Rd., Ste. C
Springfield, IL 62704