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Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W., Room 1034
Washington, DC 20024

Re: Docket No. FD 36137

City of Fishers, City of Noblesville, and Hamilton County, Indiana

Petition for Partial Revocation of Exemption

Dear Ms. Brown:

Enclosed for filing to the above-captioned proceeding are an original and ten copies of written comment regarding the "Petition for Partial Revocation of Exemption" filed on August 1, 2017 with the Surface Transportation Board (the "Board"). A copy of this comment has also been served on the attorney, Robert A. Wimbish, who is representing the collective owners, City of Fishers, City of Noblesville and Hamilton County (the "Owners"), of a railroad line in Indiana.

As a resident of Noblesville, born and raised, I can attest to the fact that the majority of Noblesville residents want to keep the train in our community. I turn 40 this year and have enjoyed the train since my childhood. I have rode on the State Fair train with my family on our annual tradition to visit the fair and have shared that experience with children in my life from here, Kentucky, and even some from Virginia-all the children AND their parents loved it. For over a decade I have lived here downtown right off the railroad tracks. I cross over them at least 8 times a day and they have never been a nuisance, but a sight to be proud of . . . a definite reason to also take pride in my town and our protected heritage.

On some days I cross over the tracks even more often because of my job. My brother and I own and operate a restaurant right off the tracks in downtown Noblesville. My employees all embrace the train as well, and I have had an OVERWHELMING wave of support from customers, old and new, drawn to help protect the train. Other than the past year and a half when ITM was forced to halt the train, my servers would ring the dining room bell when they saw the train pass so the customers could see it. During the Polar Express, my entire dining room rushes over to the side door to wave to Santa on the train. All summer my patio would run to the street corner to wave to the conductor as parents explained this awesome piece of history to their children. This train creates business. It has introduced many families to our restaurant and local shopping on Noblesville's downtown square because they were drawn to our town to take a train excursion. People visiting the ITM train museum have stopped by us on the way out of town and shared their enthusiasm of trains with us. Even when people are here on the square at the Hamilton County Courthouse taking care of business, they are excited to come back with their families to experience all that it has to offer, including the train. One family shared with us

that when needing to relocate to central Indiana, they chose Noblesville because of the train, as they regularly rode theirs in Pennsylvania! I also met two brothers having dinner at our place, who started a rode around the country following the rail lines that their mother had followed in the 30's. The train is a treasure that I can assure you is appreciated by a huge majority of my customers, and my town . . . even if a small minority with hidden political agendas don't recognize this jewel in our backyard.

Railroads petition the Board for an abandonment exemption when service on their line proves to be financially unsustainable. However, in this unique situation, the railroad is owned by municipal bodies and was operated by a third-party, non-profit operator as a heritage railway. The railroad was sustained and maintained almost exclusively by ticket revenue and donations. While there is not presently a physical connection to the nation railroad network, it is believed that the necessary Right-of-Way still exists to easily reconnect the Line with Norfolk Southern to the North of CSX to the South.

Unfortunately my brother and I are still working 80 hour weeks and I cannot be more active in the pursuit to Save Our Train as much as I'd like, both as a hard-working small business owner or as a concerned citizen. I do not have children, and my point in distinguishing this, is that there are some who want to downplay the amount of our community who want to save the train, saying it is just a few nostalgic seniors or vocal families in this fight to save the train. They are simply fabricating that there is only a vocal minority who want to save the train because it is the majority of us . . . of all ages, all backgrounds, all circumstances, who have come together to save a piece of history that we are already so lucky to have. Please help us save a bit of our nation's history here in the crossroads of America. Let us continue the Polar Express for generations to come to experience a train in person instead of a tablet . . . Provide dinner trains for young and old to ride on . . . and even Rail-gating to downtown Indy for Colts and Pacers games for everyone in between!

Sincerely,

Carrie Courtney
Noblesville Resident
Small Business Owner
Co-Owner of Courtney's Kitchen