

Danny Cook
Mayor



CITY OF TIPTONVILLE

Dewayne Haggard
Mario Montgomery
Daisy Parks
Richard Perkins
Sarah J. Woods
Reid Yates

130 South Court Street
Tiptonville, Tennessee 38079
731-253-9922

EI-20712

Fran Hearn, City Treasurer

August 11, 2014

Victoria Rutson, Director
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC 20423

RE: STB Finance Docket No.: 35802
Northwest Tennessee Regional Port Authority
Rail Construction and Operation in Lake County, Tennessee

Dear Ms. Rutson:

I am in receipt of your letter of July 24, 2014, in connection with the referenced matter.

By letter dated June 16, 2014, addressed to Ms. Cynthia T. Brown, Chief of Administration of the Surface Transportation Board, I advised of the full and unconditional support of the Northwest Tennessee Regional Port Authority's Petition for Exemption by the City of Tiptonville and by me, personally. The entire project comprising the development of the Port of Cates Landing, including the construction of the proposed Rail Line, will benefit the City of Tiptonville and all of Northwest Tennessee in a multitude of ways, and we encourage the Surface Transportation Board to approve the pending Petition at the earliest possible date.

In response to the specific issues enumerated in your letter, I advise as follows:

Safety: We foresee no prejudice to the safety of the Citizens and residents of Tiptonville or Lake County as a result of the Rail Line construction or operation of the Port.

Local Land use: Local land use will be maximized, and the public benefited by the construction of the Rail Line and operation of the Port of Cates Landing.

Existing Transportation Systems: Existing transportation systems will be enhanced as a result of the Rail Lines construction and operation of the Port of Cates Landing.

Air Emissions and Ambient Air: We foresee no prejudice to air quality as a result of the development of the Port of Cates Landing and construction and operation of the Rail Line.

Energy use: We foresee no prejudice to existing energy infrastructure as a result to the development of the Port and construction and operation of the Rail Line.

Water Quality and Wetlands: We foresee no prejudice to local water quality or wetlands as a result of the development of the Port and Rail Line.

Ambient Noise Levels: We foresee no objectionable increase to current environmental conditions or noise levels as a result of the development of the Port and Rail Line.

Historic Sites, Archeological Sites, or Cultural Recourses: No historical sites, archeological sites or cultural resources will be prejudiced or impaired as a result of the development of the Port and Rail Line.

Socio-Economics (Population Employment, Growth, and Development): Lake County, Tennessee, is one of the most impoverished counties in the Nation. We foresee huge, positive changes in population, employment, growth and development resulting from the Port and Rail Line.

Wildlife, Vegetation and Fisheries: We foresee no prejudice to wildlife, vegetation or fisheries resulting from the development and operation of the Port and Rail Line.

Soils and Geology: We see no prejudice whatsoever to local soils and geology resulting from the operation of the Port and Rail Line.

I appreciate very much you attentiveness and diligence in researching the foregoing matters to ensure no ill effect arising from the Port and Rail Line. However, this project holds huge, substantive promise for our population and region for generations

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to come. For this reason, I urge you to expedite your due diligence efforts, approve the construction of the Rail Line, and in doing so, allow us to incur the benefits these projects will surely bring.

With thanks for your service to our Nation, I am

Respectfully yours,



Danny Cook, Mayor

cc: Mr. Brian Yates, Ensafe Inc.
5724 Summer Trees Drive
Memphis, TN 38134