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Written Testimony of State Representative Glenn Grothman

"Thank you members of the Federal Surface Transportation Board for allowing me to submit my written testimony regarding the proposed abandonment of the 37 mile railroad line running from Saukville to Kiel by Canadian National Railroad.

Before legislative redistricting in 2002, I served as the State Representative for the communities of Fredonia, Random Lake, and Adell for nine years. I continue to enjoy good relations with these areas, and I hope you would consider the impact upon these communities when making your decision on Canadian National's request to abandon rail service.

For the farm-based and lumber companies located along the rail-line, the loss of the railroad would prove an economic hardship upon those businesses and the customers that they serve. Companies like Adell Cooperative, and Kettle-Lakes Cooperative not only use the rail line, but also could benefit from more rail service. These businesses and others need rail service as an alternative source of transportation. Without rail service, their transportation choices will decrease, and transportation costs will probably increase.

At a time when Wisconsin is trying to grow its economy and attract jobs to the area, it seems shortsighted to allow a rail line abandonment that would reduce employment, reduce personal economy in the area, and impact the economies of these communities.

I have heard that if Canadian National Railroad is allowed to abandon the rail line, the ties and rails will be dug up and the area will be turned into perhaps a bike trail or a hiking trail. While such trails are nice resources for an area, I believe the communities along the rail line would be better served, and their economies will be better served with rail service, rather than a bike trail.

Thank you for reviewing my testimony."