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November 21, 2002

**ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICES**
11211 Spear Rd.
Concord Twp.
Ohio 44077

Phone: (440) 639-7275
Fax: (440) 639-9126
www.lakemetroparks.com

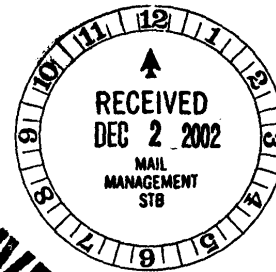
**Board of Park
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Executive Director
David A. Noble

Deputy Director
Stephen W. Madewell

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K St., NW, Room 711
Washington, DC 20423

FILING FEE WAIVED



Re: New York Central Lines, LLC-Abandonment- Lake Co. Ohio AB-565 Sub-no. 11x

Dear Mr. Williams:

This comment should be treated as a protest or a petition for reconsideration in the above-captioned proceeding. This comment is filed on behalf of Lake Metroparks, which is a separate political subdivision of the State of Ohio interested in transportation, natural resources and recreation, which is hereinafter referred to as 'Commenter'.

While not taking a position on the merits of this abandonment, Commenter requests issuance of a Public Use Condition as well as a Certificate or Notice of Interim Trail Use rather than an outright abandonment authorization between Painesville and Grand River.

A. Public Use Condition

Commenter requests the STB to find that this property is suitable for other public use, specifically trail use, and to place the following conditions on the abandonment:

1. An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than the tracks, ties and signal equipment, except of public use on reasonable terms. The justification for this condition is that the corridor would make an excellent recreational trail and conversion of the property to trail use is in accordance with local plans. In addition, the corridor provides important greenspace and its preservation as a recreational trail is consistent with that end. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Commenter needs this much time because we have not had an opportunity to assemble or to review title information, complete a trail plan or commence negotiations with the carrier.
2. An order barring removal or destruction of potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles, culverts and tunnels. The justification for this condition is that these structures have considerable value for recreational trail purposes. The time period requested is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization for the same reason as indicated above.

**ENTERED
Office of Public
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DEC 02 2002
Public Record

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B. Interim Trail Use

The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for railbanking. In addition to the public use conditions sought above, Commenter also makes the following request:

STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In order to establish interim trail use and rail banking under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. §1247(d), and 49 C.F.R. §1152.29, Lake Metroparks is willing to assume full responsibility for management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of (unless the user is immune from liability, in which case it need only indemnify the railroad against any potential liability), and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way owned by New York Central Lines, LLC and operated by CSX Transportation, Inc.

The property, known as the New York Central Line extends from former B&O Valuation Station 2535+40 to the end of the track at former Conrail Valuation Station 45+01, between Painesville and Grand River a distance of 2.56 miles in Lake County, Ohio. The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No. AB-565 Sub-no. 11x.

Lake Metroparks acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to the user's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service.

By my signature below, I certify service upon CSX Transportation Inc., 500 Water Street -J150, Jacksonville, FL 32202, by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, first class, this 22nd day November of 2002.

Respectfully submitted,



David A. Noble
Executive Director
on behalf of: Lake Metroparks