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MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

Transportation Section

Office 614.466.4656

Fax 866-771-4221

150 E. Gay Street, 22nd Floor

Columbus, Ohio 43215-3167

alan.klodell@ohioattorneygeneral.gov

July 24, 2012

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Attn: Docketing Division 11th Floor
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Oh 43215-3793

Re: **PUCO Case #12-2145--RR-UNC:**
Paulding County, Brown Township, TR 159/Storer Road

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PUCO

To whom it may concern:

I am writing you concerning the above-referenced case, at the request of my client; the Ohio Rail Development Commission ("ORDC"). The ORDC desires to provide information regarding Norfolk Southern ("NS") petition to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("PUCO") for the closure of the NS crossing AARDOT# 472543T crossing involved in PUCO Case #12-2145-RR-UNC.

The ORDC supports the NS petition for closure of Brown Township Road 159. The rationale for this support is due to the multiple factors: (1) an average daily vehicular traffic of 26 cars per day and a train volume of 34 per day; (2) alternate crossings equipped with state-of-the-art active warning devices at TR 165 located .50 miles east and CR 151 located .51 miles west; (3) TR 159 is a single mile segment of roadway that dead ends into SR 613, 1/10 of a mile north of the NS track; and (4) TR 159 has a single property situated 3/10 of a mile from TR 82.

TR 159 is situated on the NS B Line Corridor from Vermilion to Payne, Ohio. Over the last decade the ORDC and NS have updated the warning devices along this corridor. TR 159, Storer Road is one of the final passive crossings remaining on the corridor. The ORDC and NS have attempted to negotiate the closure of the roadway since 2005. Based on the information above, the ORDC believes the crossing is redundant and that there it can be eliminated without significant inconvenience to the public.

Therefore, ORDC respectfully requests that the PUCO support NS's petition for the closure of TR 159, Storer Road. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about ORDC's request.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan H. Klodell

Associate Assistant Attorney General

Transportation Section

c: Matthew Dietrich, ORDC Executive Director
Susan Kirkland, Manager of Grade Crossing Safety, ORDC
Leah Thomas Dalton, Chief, Railroad Division, PUCO

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