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December 17, 2007

Hon. Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E. Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20423



Re: STB Docket No. AB-156 (Sub - No. 26X)  
Abandonment of Trackage Located in Green Island, New York

Dear Secretary Williams:

I write to express my opposition to the Offer of Financial Assistance submitted by R. Kelly Freedman & Sons, Inc. on the above matter.

The reopening of this rail line, which has been inactive for approximately 8 years, is not in the public interest of my constituents in the Village of Green Island. More importantly, it would create an unacceptable safety hazard to the residents -- especially the children.

Three decades ago, when I served as Mayor of this Village, there were several derailments on this line. The track was in deplorable condition then, and never received any substantial repairs. It was after one particularly severe derailment that left an overturned rail car within 15 feet of an occupied residence that I ordered our Department of Public Works to block the rail line until repairs were made. This line was closed by the owner precisely because of its deteriorated condition, and has lain dormant these many years. To reopen this line is to invite another disaster.

Over 300 school children in grades K through 12 attend the local public school, and most of these students walk to and from school. There is no school bus service for local students because of the short distances involved, and many of the students walk across these tracks twice a day.

Public safety is our paramount concern. The Mayor and Trustees of the Village have expressed their objections to this line being reopened. I agree with them completely. The interests of a single business entity, which has not used this line for over 8 years, cannot outweigh the interests of public safety -- especially when children are concerned.

I urge this Board to reject this Offer of Financial Assistance. Your consideration of this request consistent with current law, rules and agency policy, is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. McNulty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Michael R. McNulty  
Member of Congress

MRM/ibb