

a/13/83

Today the Interstate Commerce Commission rejected a petition by Virginia Stage Lines, Inc., a subsidiary of Trailways, to discontinue bus service in Southern West Virginia. As a result, Virginia Stage Lines will have to continue its bus service between Charleston and Logan and Welch and Huntington.

The I.C.C. rejected the petition because of the lack of cost data on each route Virginia Stage Lines petitioned to discontinue. The bus company did not provide the I.C.C. with the data to justify its statement that all of its routes listed in the exit petition were unprofitable. However, I must caution that under the Bus Act there is nothing to prevent Virginia Stage Lines from again filing with the Public Service Commission and start the exit proceedings all over again.

Therefore, it is ~~is~~ up to the residents of Southern West Virginia to patronize our bus service so that we will not have to go through this process again.

This is most welcome news for all of those who use public transportation: the sick, the elderly, students, business, hospitals and many others. The action by the I.C.C. demonstrates that ^{bus} companies must justify their decision to discontinue bus service. I am pleased that in this case, the I.C.C. upheld the intent of Congress.

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Welch P.N.
Logan