



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 15, 1993

CONTACT: KENT KEYSER
Acting Press Secretary
Phone: (202) 225-3452

ICC TO HOLD HEARING ON CSX

ABANDONING TRACK IN WEST VIRGINIA

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today announced the Interstate Commerce Commission has instituted an investigation and will hold an oral hearing on CSX Transportation, Inc.'s request to abandon 122 miles of railroad line in West Virginia. The line is located in Barbour, Randolph, Pocahontas, and Wester Counties.

"I urged the ICC to fully investigate CSX's request. This rail line is essential to the region's economy. The negative effect this action would have on the coal and timber industries would be devastating and the loss of rail service from the area would have a chilling effect in attracting new businesses to the region." Rahall said. "I applaud the ICC's actions."

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NICK J. RAHALL II
3d DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

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TO = Kent
WG -

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 23, 1993

2209 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4502
(202) 225-3452

815 FIFTH AVENUE
HUNTINGTON, WV 25701-2088
(304) 822-NICK

1104 MAIN STREET
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(304) 262-5000

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101 NORTH COURT STREET
P.O. BOX 5
LEWISBURG, WV 24801-0005
(304) 647-3228

Mr. Sidney Strickland, Jr.
Secretary, ICC
Office of the Secretary
12th and Constitution Ave., N.W.
Room 2215
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Mr. Strickland:

I have been advised that CSX Railway System has proposed the abandonment of 122.89 miles of railway line from Tygart Junction through Elkins, West Virginia down to the end of the line at Bergoo in Webster County, West Virginia.

Because of the dire need for railway shipment of coal and timber products in this area, I feel this would be devastating to the economy of Webster County, West Virginia. I want to take this opportunity to express my fullest and strongest objection to the abandonment of this important transportation system.

Your reply to my Lewisburg District Office at P. O. Box 5, Lewisburg, West Virginia, 24901, will be appreciated.

With warm regard, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL, II
Member of Congress

NJR/lwg

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

URGENT

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IMPACT INFORMATION

TO:

Congressman DeHall

Attn: Mr. Kyle

Transportation LA

FROM:

ICC

Office of Congressional and Public Affairs

(202) 927-6050

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12th & constitution avenue n.w. □ washington d.c. 20423

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CONTACT: ALVIN H. BROWN

(202) 927-5350

TDD: (202) 927-5721

ICC TO HOLD HEARING ON CSXT REQUEST
TO ABANDON 122 MILES OF WEST VIRGINIA TRACK

Interstate Commerce Commission Chairman Gail McDonald announced today that the Commission has instituted an investigation and will hold an oral hearing to develop a record concerning the request of CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) to abandon a 122.89-mile railroad line in West Virginia. The line is located in Barbour, Randolph, Pocahontas, and Webster Counties.

Chairman McDonald noted that holding a local hearing "will be helpful in developing the views of the numerous community and shipper interest groups that oppose the application, and it will facilitate the taking of testimony from those unfamiliar with our rules."

In its application filed August 31, 1993, CSXT states that the line has only five active rail shippers and is operated at a loss and will continue to suffer losses in the foreseeable future. CSXT maintains there are other CSXT rail lines in three of the four counties as well as trucking alternatives throughout the area. Rail patrons losing service because of the abandonment can assertedly use public team tracks along other CSXT lines.

There were 26 protests to the abandonment application from

labor, shippers, government agencies, elected officials, and others. Protestants argue that the abandonment will have a devastating effect on an area with high unemployment. They also contend that trucking may be too costly for shippers and will be a burden on the road system. They are concerned that a loss of rail service will prevent localities from attracting businesses in the future. CSXT's cost figures were also challenged.

The date and place of the oral hearing will be determined by the Administrative Law Judge at a later time. Persons who wish to have their comments formally considered must serve copies of their comments on the applicant within 10 days from today and certify to the Commission that such service has been made.

Today's decision was issued in Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 472), CSX Transportation, Inc.--Abandonment--Between Tygart Jct. and Bergoo in Barbour, Randolph, Pocahontas, and Webster Counties, WV.