

304 BROWN AVE.
BELTON, S.C. 29627

August 31, 2006



Surface Transportation Board
1925 K St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Ref. Docket no. AB 55 Sub-No. 664 X
CSX track abandonment in Anderson Co. S.C.

Dear Sirs:

217499

As a former chairman of the Anderson County Transportation Committee and former mayor pro-tem of the City of Belton, I believe I have some perspective on this issue relative to Anderson County's sincerity in maintaining a viable railroad line between Pelzer and Belton.

During my six years on the ACTC, an organization independent of the county government, the county repeatedly and vigorously lobbied for money for development of industrial parks and roads to encourage development along the I-85 corridor in northern Anderson County. Some of this was on private property. This is about as far from the Pelzer-Belton area as you can get and still be in the county. There were no requests in support of railroads.

This past year, the county government initiated an intensive effort to pass a two per cent county sales tax for road building. The two primary projects would be widening SC 247 from Belton to US 25 and US 76 from Honea Path to US 25 in order to encourage truck transportation in that area. As you probably know, Pelzer is only a few miles from Belton. These roads are in the heart of the area that is in question. Some of the businesses that complained are actually in the Honea Path area.

The tax effort was stopped due to the state increasing the sales tax this year. However, knowing the county leaders as I do, it will come up again within the next couple of years. All of the proposed expenditures were for roads and intersection improvements.

If Anderson County and the companies using your line are sincere in wanting to keep it and use it, why are they spending so much money and effort to encourage competitive truck transportation?

The county ran a half page ad in the *Anderson Independent-Mail* about Aug. 28 or 29. While not actually saying the county was victorious over CSX, it certainly leans that way.

Personally, I am a big believer in rail transportation and it is the only viable solution to overcrowding and unsafe highways. However, Anderson County and the state of South Carolina are only interested in road transportation. Their continued emphasis and funding of roads that compete with rail lines is both unfair and hypocritical, especially when they expect CSX stockholders to pay 100% for the rail line, while truck companies do not.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Tugwell
Lt. Col, USA, Ret.
Transportation Corps

CC: Louis Gitomer,

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**304 BROWN AVE.
BELTON, S.C. 29627**

August 31, 2006

Mr. Louis E. Gitomer
600 Baltimore Ave., Suite 301
Towson, MD 21204

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Robert C. Tugwell
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