



Ohio Rail Development Commission

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Jim Seney

FROM: Lou Jannazo

SUBJECT: Meeting with Jefferson County Commissioners

DATE: February 7, 2002

On February 6, 2003, I attended a regular meeting of the Jefferson County Commissioners. All three Commissioners (Richard Delatore, Adam Scurti, and Dr. Thomas Graham) were present. I was one of several people on the agenda.

I briefed the Commissioners on the recent history of the Panhandle and explained that I was there to obtain input. I stated that ORDC had not yet made any decision to sell the Panhandle and that the options at present were to sell it in a competitive bid process, sell it to the current operator, the Columbus & Ohio River Railroad, or not to sell it at all.

Mr. Scurti asked if ORDC could indeed sell the Panhandle without a competitive bid process. I told him that our counsel had advised us we could. He asked me to provide him the legislative authority for such an action and I agreed to do so. He added that he would probably not have a problem with ORDC privatizing the Panhandle but that he would need time to look at it further. He asked that the Commissioners be informed of any decisions made.

Dr. Graham and Mr. Delatore asked some background questions but did not offer any opinions at the meeting. They also inquired about the timing. I informed them that ORDC was just going out for appraisals for the line and that any sale would be 6 months to a year or longer off.

I advised the Commissioners that ORDC would accept their input on the Panhandle sale at any time and in any format they chose.

Also present at the meeting was a representative from the Progress Alliance. She stated that she feared a monopolistic railroad might be difficult to deal with concerning issues about easements for water or sewer. She asked that the Alliance be included in any public input forums on the matter.

Mike Poprocki of the Brook-Hancock-Jefferson MPO was also present. He asked about future potential for fiber optic easements. I told him that I did not know what type of future fiber optics easements rights might be possible on the Panhandle. I added that I thought Conrail had retained some fiber optics rights back in 1992 but did not know if they were exclusive rights.

Tom Barnett of the Ohi-Rail railroad asked if the sale of the Panhandle would set a precedent for ORDC to sell other rail lines it owned. I said that it might but that I did not really know.

Local media were present at the meeting but none had any questions about the Panhandle.

lj28/PanhandleJefferson