



COAD

CORPORATION FOR OHIO APPALACHIAN DEVELOPMENT

COAD PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

1 PINCHOT PLACE P.O. BOX 787 ATHENS, OHIO 45701

June 3, 1991

MEMBER AGENCIES

Adams-Brown  
Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Athens-Hocking-Perry CAA

Belmont Co. CAC

Carroll-Harrison-  
Tuscarawas CAO

Columbiana Co. CAA

Coshocton-Holmes-  
Knox & Ashland CAO

Gallia-Meigs CAC

Guernsey-Monroe-Noble CAC

Highland Co. CAO

Ironton-Lawrence Co.  
Area CAO

Jackson-Vinton  
Community Action, Inc.

Jefferson Co. CAC

Muskingum Economic  
Opportunity Action Group

Pike Co. CAC

Ross Co. CAC

Scioto Co. CAO

Washington-Morgan CAO

Interstate Commerce Commission  
Office of Proceedings  
Room 5420  
12th Street and Constitution Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20423

Re: Sale of Conrail "Panhandle Line"

Our organization previously expressed opposition to immediate abandonment of the rail line captioned above. It was our position that we would support a sale, in lieu of abandonment, to a viable purchaser.

COAD, Inc. has been advised that individually locked derailing devices at mile posts 66.05 and 90.0, i.e., Weirton Secondary Track, remain operable. As you know, this section is within the "Panhandle Line". These locks cause onerous rerouting of shipments and appearance of stagnated negotiation for sale with the Ohio Central Railroad. Our understanding is that June 17, 1991 will be "sunset" for this negotiation, if no agreement for purchase is concluded by that date. We also understand that other interested purchasers exist, but may not be able to negotiate.

The litany of events, beginning with installation of derailing devices in 1988, raise the presumption that abandonment is a foregone conclusion. We hope this is not the case insofar as it will be nearly impossible to reopen rail service in this part of Appalachia, Ohio. Also, miles of right-of-way will be legally abandoned, and it would be much more expensive to repurchase their easements.

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Interstate Commerce Commission  
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Appalachia, Ohio will suffer from abandonment, and we, therefore, strongly reaffirm our position that this rail line continue to be operable with a dedicated owner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger Patton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Roger F. Patton  
Chairman  
Board of Directors

RFP:mev  
cc: Ohio Department of Transportation  
Ohio Governor's Office of Appalachia  
Mr. Wade McGuire