

**August 7, 2006**

**Subj: Bridge Access to the West End of Pony Farm Road**

**Dear Board Members:**

**Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns to the board on the subject matter..**

**My Concerns are both as an employer & on behalf of my residential neighbors. Our business is located at 330 Pony Farm Road. There are several businesses (approximately 25 employees total) located at this address; Commlnnovations, Village Printer, Solutions Integrators, AutoTech Electronics, UHaul & Century Storage. There are about a dozen residential homes along this portion of Pony Farm Road.**

**We are pleased to learn the repairs to flood damage bridge on Pony Farm Road across Otego Creek have been authorized & we look forward to seeing this road reopened this fall.**

**Our business is being affected in many ways:**

**Fire & other emergency vehicles exceeding 15 tons are prevented from using this access & the emergency only alternate at grade access is often blocked by railcars for extended periods.**

**Delivery & construction vehicles exceeding 15 tons cannot reach us at all, compromising our ability to conduct business & jeopardizing livelihood of our employees.**

**I have discussed this situation with my neighbors & they particularly concerned about the fact that the only route for fire & other emergency vehicles exceeding 15 tons is an at-grade crossing. This crossing is often blocked by stopped railroad cars. Even in an emergency it would take several minutes for a train to clear this path. Many of my neighbors are elderly & the homes are older wood frame structures. I'm sure you appreciate the importance of unimpeded access to emergency services.**

**Even before these floods we have seen the access across the Otego Creek bridge to this end of Pony Farm Road closed for periods of time due to much smaller floods than the recent occurrence. For this reason we would like to see the option for rebuilding the bridge & approach ramps much higher than the recent configuration.**

**Aside from floods access across the Otego Creek is blocked by road repair or heavy snow. For these reasons, the railroad bridge connecting Pony Farm Road**

to Route 7 is of vital importance. This bridge was once rated as unlimited is now restricted to vehicles under 15 tons. Loss of this bridge would cause the loss of jobs adversely affect property values on this end of Pony Farm Road. It would also deprive the Industrial Park of its second entrance.

Improved lighting at this bridge is important to improve safety.

We were pleased to learn that you share our concern for this railroad bridge & that you will be working with Sen Seward & the CP Railroad. I look forward to attending future board meetings so that we can remain informed on progress.

Regards,      Bill Castine