-----Original Message-----
From: Dennis Travale [mailto:Dennis.Travale@norfolkcounty.ca]
Sent: Saturday, December 07, 2013 10:32 AM
Subject: Closure - Rail Line - Elgin/Oxford/Norfolk - Another Economic Blow to Rural Ontario

I exchanged email with Mr. Feeney in Montreal who is representing CN Rail. The background is as follows:

- CN Rail sold the line between St Thomas and Delhi in 1998 to Trillium Rail who operate that section of track as St. Thomas and Eastern

- St Thomas and Eastern informed CN of their intentions to cease operations as of December 20, 2013 due to safety and economic issues; 3 bridges require significant repairs and the cost of the repair work is not warranted by the revenue generated by the rail traffic

- there are 7 main customers who moved 1100 cars last year with the majority being from Tillsonburg, Elgin, Norfolk

- under conditions of the original sale, the track reverts to CN Rail after Dec. 20 but CN does not plan to operate the track because of economics of operation and capital required for improvements

- under federal regulations CN is required to offer the track for sale with a response deadline of June 20 (6 months after they assume control) to governments then private sector

- The contact at Trillium is Karen Ettinger (phone: 905-835-2772). Trillium has the detailed information about the track and bridge conditions. CN can't share it as it's not theirs to share.

Mr. Feeney has spoken with the 3 MPP's (Barrett, Hardeman, Yurek), Aylmer Mayor Couckuyt, MP Joe Preston and left a message with me. I have communicated further with Minister Finley and MPP Barrett.

CN staff are working with current customers using the track to find options in moving their freight. There is no passenger traffic on that section of track.

Given the recent request by SWEA and affected Counties of WOWC to support their actions re: VIA Rail, I ask that this email be sent to all SWEA and WOWC members with a request to support St. Thomas, Elgin, Oxford & Norfolk in our quest to retain this rail service. Such support could take the form of contact with your MPP & MP expressing a desire to see this issue dealt with expeditiously to a positive conclusion.

Thank you in advance.

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