



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

GEOFFREY HALL
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
2ND MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
AYER - PRECINCT 2
HARVARD, LITTLETON, WESTFORD

January 24, 2000

Chairman
Committee on State Administration
ROOM 34, STATE HOUSE
TEL. (617) 722-2320

JOANNE BARNETT
STAFF DIRECTOR

Mr. David A. Fink, Exec. V.P.
Guilford Transportation Co.
Iron Horse Park
No. Billerica, MA 01862

Re: Over-extended duration of parked railroad freight cars in Graniteville

Dear Mr. Fink:

Residents of the Bridge Street area in the Graniteville (Westford) have brought to our attention that many of your company's freight cars have been and remain, seemingly unendingly, dead-parked on tracks in that residential neighborhood.

This is not a new issue; it has been the source of concern and complaint of residents over the past 15 years off and on. The railroad company has been cooperative in the past, but periodically the dead parking issue resurfaces as it has during the past months.

The use of that stretch of tracks as a substitute freight yard is offensive to the neighborhood residents who in recent years have invested considerable financial resources in improvements to property. The cars also represent a public danger, while old, creosoted railroad ties stored in that area are falling onto an aquifer.

In the interest of all parties, we propose a meeting with you and/or your representatives and town officials to try to resolve this neighborhood problem in an amicable fashion. We would appreciate your most immediate attention to this request. Please let us know of possible earliest dates that such a meeting might take place.

Sincerely,

Rep. Geoffrey D. Hall
Chairman
Committee on State Administration

Sen. Steven Panagiotakos
Chairman,
Committee on Housing and
Urban Development

Cc: S. Ledoux, Westford Town Manager