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KIRKLAND 7-3124

May 25, 1973

Hon. John H. Corcoran
Cambridge City Manager
Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Dear City Manager:

Re: Hearing - DPU - Penn Central Transportation Company - Freight Agents

For your information and records, I make the following report.

On a telephone request from the City Clerk's Office, I appeared at a 10:00 hearing on May 24, 1973 at the Department of Public Utilities Commission, Boston, representing the interests of the City of Cambridge on the petition of the Penn Central Transportation Company to eliminate and consolidate Freight Agency Stations on the Penn Railroad System operating in the Commonwealth.

I did not object to the petition, but I made a statement that the Cambridge City Council objected to the reduction and elimination of any railroad personnel which would increase the hazards and dangers to any persons who might be using the railroad right of way in any capacity. (The recent fatal accident at Sherman Street was on the Boston & Maine System.)

Under this petition the freight operations handled and conducted by freight agents, ticket agents and station agents in every city and town on the railroad system are to be eliminated by the establishment of a Freight Agency Coordinated Terminal (FACT) at Boston and seven field terminal offices. Cambridge at present has three freight agency offices on the Penn Central, namely, Cambridge, Cambridgeport and East Cambridge; if the petition is granted, all Cambridge freight operations will be handled at the Boston office which will operate twenty-four hours every day. The new freight control system is supposed to reduce costs and provide better service for those using the freight system of Penn Central.

Ricard Ferriter appeared as counsel for Penn Central, and a Virgil Green explained the freight operations for the system.

Very truly yours,

Charles A. Watson

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Report from Charles A. Watson,
Legislative Agent, relative to
hearing on May 24, 1973 before
Dept. of Public Utilities relative
to the handling of freight operations
by Penn Central railroad System.

In City Council,

June 4, 1973

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