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BAUSKA COUNTY COUNCIL

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In Bauska

FOA: I. Jegere
/stamp: ACTION REQUIRED
17 AUG 2015/ /signature/

13 August 2015 No. 3 – 14.8/2166
Ref. to letter No. 7-01/ of 20.07.2015

FAO: The Environment State Bureau of the
Republic of Latvia
Rūpniecības iela 23, Rīga, LV-1045

Regarding assessment of the environmental report of the strategic environmental impact assessment of the Lithuanian special territorial planning for Rail Baltica section Kaunas – Lithuanian/Latvian state border.

Bauska County Municipality has reviewed the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment Report of the special plan of the European standard gauge railway line Kaunas –Lithuanian/Latvian state border and the proposed alternatives No. 1–4 for the Latvian border crossing.

Bauska County Municipality appreciates the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment Report of the contractor "URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited" chosen by AS "Lietuvos geležinkeliai" which is the authorized company of the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Lithuania.

The route territory of Alternative No. 1 with the highest score (85) corresponds to the border crossing point acknowledged in the AECOM study, which has been already chosen and incorporated in the Territorial Planning of Bauska County Municipality for 2012–2023. A public discussion process was organized and the residents' opinion was found out within the development of the territorial planning, as a result of which it was established that the route disposition of Rail Baltica in the same transport corridor with Via Baltica would best suit the interests of Bauska County.

Please note that the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment Report does not provide a transboundary assessment (transboundary impact is mentioned only in the section about accidents).

Bauska County Municipality strictly objects to the route options of Alternative No.2-4 because they envisage crossing of agricultural areas of national significance rated above 60 points and densely populated areas, thus reinforcing territorial fragmentation, reducing the economic development of the County, as well as contradicting with the solution included in the Territorial Planning of Bauska County Municipality for 2012-2023.

Considering the above mentioned, Bauska County Municipality expresses its support for promoting the route territory of Alternative No. 1 for further detailing for the Latvian – Lithuanian border crossing.

Chairman of the Council

/signature/

R. Abelnieks /R.Ābelnieks/

Berzina /Bērziņa/ 63963972

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THE ENVIRONMENT
STATE BUREAU
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