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Lodging Enterprises, LLC Opens Oak Tree Inn and Penny's Diner in Comfort, W.Va. to Serve Needs of CSX Crews

WICHITA, Kan., May 4, 2010 – A brand new, 25-room Oak Tree opens its doors in Comfort, W.Va. on May 6. The custom-built hotel will primarily serve the needs of CSX Corporation train crews working into Elk Run and Danville, W.Va. However, rooms not needed by the railroad will be made available to the public.

Food service will be provided to these Oak Tree Inn Guests by V-Mart, open 24 hours a day and located adjacent to the Oak Tree Inn property.

The Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 includes new hours-of-service limits. Among other safety improvements, the new legislation mandates more rest for workers, including a guaranteed minimum 10-hour disruption-free rest period for train crews and signal employees.

Oak Tree Inns are built to provide uninterrupted sleep conditions, designed specifically to address the needs of the railroad industry with its irregular work schedules. Railroads like CSX operate around the clock with no uniform work shifts. With crews at train switching stations requiring food and lodging and mandatory periods of rest at all hours, the hotels are built with features that provide a superior rest environment 24 hours a day.

Cheryl Hooke, Manager CSX Crew Lodging, said, "Lodging Enterprises builds facilities that provide CSX train crews with top-rated accommodations. The rooms are clean, quiet and dark. This allows crews an undisturbed rest period whether it is 3 a.m. or 3 p.m."

Room features include custom black-out drapes to block all light, custom insulated, sound-resistant windows to block sound, white background noise on the heating and air units to mask outside noise, special construction of plumbing systems to block plumbing noise, and a wireless remote guest detection system which allows housekeepers to determine whether a room is occupied without knocking or opening a door.

The hotel also features a dedicated crew lounge with recliners, a 55" color TV, microwave, refrigerator, and CSX computer workstation. It has a well-equipped exercise room.

CSX Corporation, based in Jacksonville, Fla., is one of the nation's leading transportation companies, providing rail-based transportation services.

Lodging Enterprises, LLC, a hotel operations and development company based in Wichita, Kan., operates 27 other Oak Tree Inns in 16 states and is the nation's largest provider of custom lodging services to the U.S. rail industry. It contracts with the nation's largest railroad companies to provide lodging and 24-hour food service to railroad workers.

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