



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Refer to: HSA-CC12I

April 10, 2000

Mr. Rodney Boyd
Trinity Industries, Inc.
2525 Stemmons Freeway
Dallas, TX 75207

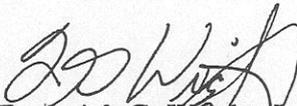
Dear Mr. Boyd:

Mr. James R. Albritten of Exodyne Technologies, Inc., in his capacity as a consultant to Trinity Industries, Inc., sent me two separate letters, both dated March 16, requesting that my response be sent directly to you. One of these letters requested acceptance of the 3" x 3" x 1/4" (76mm x 76mm x 6.4mm) steel ground strut that was used in the certification testing for the Hinged Breakaway (HBA) post ET-2000 as an alternative to the original channel strut for use with any of the previously accepted ET-2000 combinations of wood breakaway posts and tube sleeves. The second letter requested confirmation that the Federal Highway Administration considered the HBA posts to be a direct substitute for the weakened wood posts in any of the previously accepted versions of the ET-2000.

The angle strut described above performed satisfactorily in the strength test you ran using your HBA posts and it has a greater moment of inertia than the steel channel strut currently in use. Therefore, when this galvanized steel angle is attached to the first two wood post/soil tube assemblies with 3/4" (19mm) high strength bolts as described in your letter and shown on Enclosure 1, it may be considered an alternative to the original channel strut design.

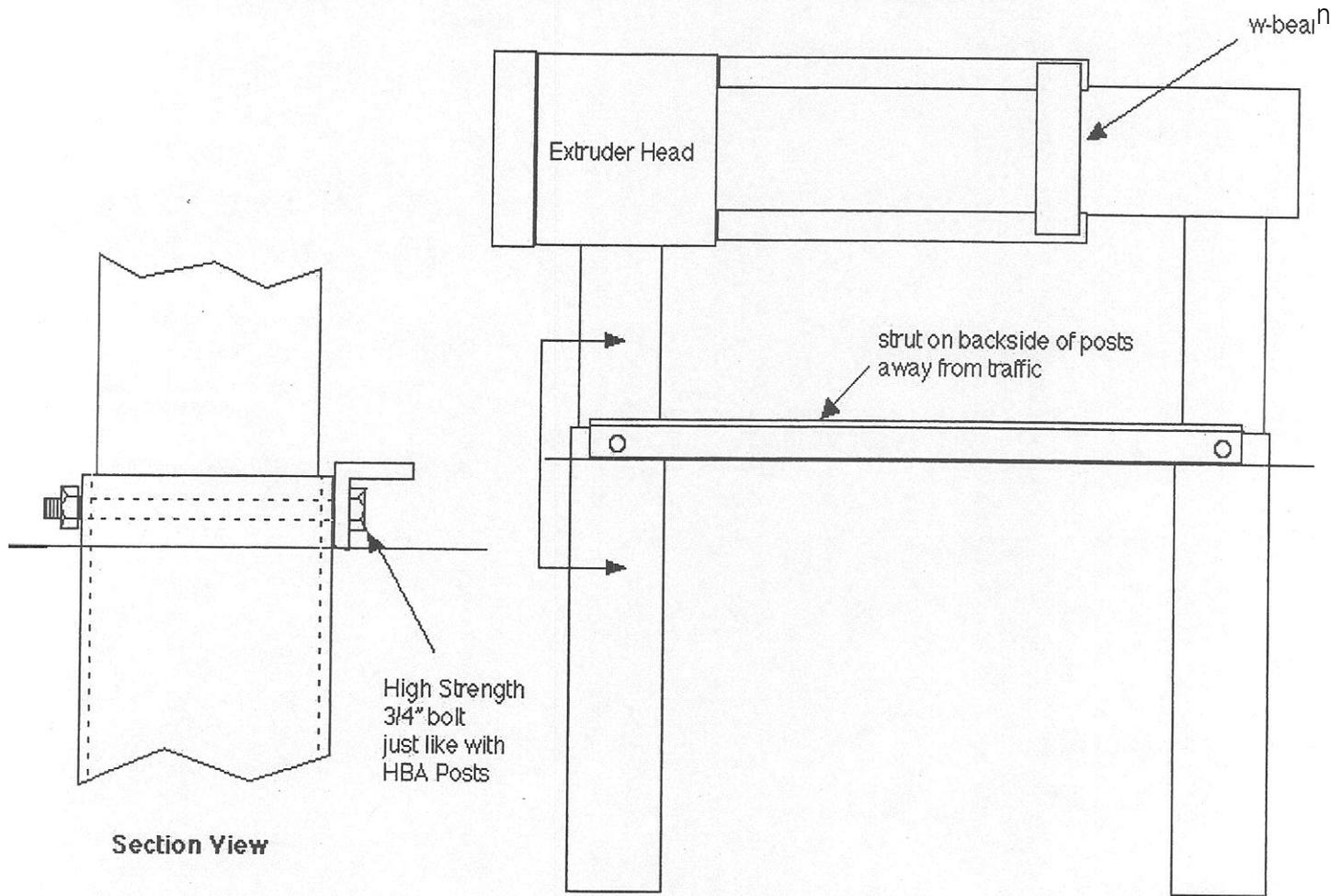
We also confirm that the HBA posts may be used as a direct substitute for the original weakened wood posts in any of the ET-2000 configurations previously accepted as meeting Report 350 evaluation criteria.

Sincerely yours,


Frederick G. Wright, Jr.
Program Manager, Safety

Enclosure

Use of 3x3x1/4 Strut with Wood Posts on ET-2000 System



Sketch Not to Scale

J. R. Albritton, P.E.
Exodyne Technologies, Inc.
Trinity Industries, Inc.
817-560-1459