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\* Executive Committee Members

Grace Gallucci, NOACA Executive Director

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ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
February 7, 2022  
Part of  
Public Record

**To Whom It May Concern at the Surface Transportation Board:**

I hereby give notice of my intent to participate in the public hearing on February 15 regarding Docket No. FD 36496. I would request approximately five minutes to speak.

I am the Executive Director and CEO of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), the federally mandated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for Greater Cleveland. NOACA is the transportation and environmental planning agency that represents state, county, city, village, and township officials in the region. As such, NOACA addresses the transportation, air quality, and water quality needs of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina counties. The agency and its partners cooperatively develop and implement plans to ensure that travel throughout the region is safe, cost-effective and environmentally sound.

To that end, I would like to participate in the hearing on February 15, to express support for passenger rail expansion in the United States. My remarks will address the importance of expanded passenger rail in order to improve transportation choice; reduce transportation-related emissions; and build a more equitable transportation system for economic growth, job creation, and quality of life. My support for expanded passenger rail is consistent with NOACA's 2022 Legislative Agenda, which states that NOACA will advocate for the incorporation of "safety, sustainability, and multi-modalism in planning & funding" for the nation's transportation system.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Grace Gallucci  
Executive Director & CEO  
Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA)

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