

October 25, 2019

249004

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
November 18, 2019
Part of
Public Record

Re: STB Docket No. FD 36347: Bessemer & Lake Erie R.R.—Acquisition & Operation—Certain Rail Lines of CSX Transportation, Inc.

Dear Ms. Brown:

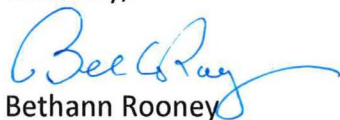
We are writing in support of the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad Company's ("B&LE") request to the Surface Transportation Board for approval to own and operate the portion of the CSX Massena Lines in upstate New York.

The Port of New York and New Jersey is the largest port on the East Coast of North America and handles over 4 million cargo containers yearly. The Port relies upon reliable and efficient rail service to serve its customers. In particular, the Port and its customers rely on local rail service on the Massena Lines as well as CN/CSX interline service over those lines to facilitate the movement of goods to and from the Port. CN's extensive rail network and the direct connection to CSX will preserve access to critical markets for both import and export products moving through our port.

We fully support B&LE's proposed acquisition of the U.S. Massena Lines. The proposed acquisition will preserve the existing direct gateway between CN and CSX. It is these new, innovative transportation products that enable goods to reach consumer markets in the US and around the world in a timely, efficient and environmentally sustainable manner.

We believe that the proposed acquisition will benefit the Port of New York and New Jersey by preserving local and efficient rail service on the Massena Lines, which is important to our future. We are excited to work with B&LE and CSX as strategic interline partners in promoting transportation options via the Port. We ask that the Board favorably approve B&LE's acquisition.

Sincerely,



Bethann Rooney
Deputy Director, Port Department

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have on or before this 18th day of November, 2019, caused a true copy of the foregoing letter, dated October 25, 2019, from The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to Cynthia T. Brown, to be served by e-mail and first class mail upon the following known parties of record in this proceeding:

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