



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0016

Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

300179

Bruce A. Van Note
COMMISSIONER

December 11, 2019

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
December 13, 2019
Part of
Public Record

RE: **Docket #: FD36368**

*Application by Soo Line Corporation for STB approval to acquire the
Central Maine & Quebec Railway*

Dear Board Members:

The Maine Department of Transportation submits this letter in strong support of the application filed by Soo Line Corporation ("Soo") to acquire the Central Maine & Quebec Railway (CMQR).

MaineDOT has primary responsibility for statewide travel by all modes. MaineDOT's mission is to ensure a safe, reliable, and efficient transportation system.

MaineDOT supports the proposed acquisition because it:

- Preserves and enhances overall competition in Maine and the Northeast surface transportation market;
- Will result in more efficient, seamless rail service for Maine shippers;
- Provides customers with enhanced access to markets including to export markets by connecting CP's network to Atlantic ports, particularly Searsport, Maine;
- Produces no competitive harms, as it is an end-to-end transaction; and
- Ensures continued viability of CMQR rail lines

For the above reasons, MaineDOT strongly supports the application of Soo before the STB to acquire CMQR. We respectfully request your expedited review and approval of this minor transaction.

Sincerely,

Bruce A Van Note
Commissioner

cc: David F. Rifkind
via email David.Rifkind@stinson.com