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February 11, 2020

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

RE: Docket #: FD 36368
Soo Line Corporation – Control - Central Maine & Quebec Railway US Inc.

Dear Board Members:

The Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA) submits this letter in support of the application filed by Soo Line Corporation (Soo Line) to acquire control of Central Maine & Quebec Railway US Inc. (CMQR).

NNEPRA was established by the State of Maine to promote passenger rail service between points within Maine and points within and outside Maine. NNEPRA holds an agreement with Amtrak, under which Amtrak operates the Downeaster passenger rail service between Maine and Boston, Massachusetts. Downeaster service was extended from Portland, Maine to Brunswick, Maine beginning in 2012, in part to be able to connect with the State-owned Rockland Branch, which extends from Brunswick, Maine to Rockland, Maine. CMQR currently leases the Rockland Branch from the State.

NNEPRA and Amtrak have an interest in restoring passenger rail service over the Rockland Branch, and NNEPRA looks forward to working with Soo Line and CMQR on that endeavor.

NNEPRA respectfully requests your expedited review and approval of this minor transaction.

Sincerely,

Patricia Quinn
Executive Director

cc: Parties of Record