



Jim Justice
Governor of West Virginia

October 9, 2020

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ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
October 9, 2020
Part of
Public Record

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Vice-Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
Board Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: STB Docket No. FD 36434, Verified Petition of the Elk River Railroad, Inc.
for Retroactive Exemption under 49 U.S.C. §10502 from the Prior Approval
Requirements of 49 U.S.C. § § 11323-11325

Dear Chairman Begeman and Board Members Oberman and Fuchs:

I write in support of the Verified Petition of the Elk River Railroad in the above-captioned proceeding and respectfully request that the Surface Transportation Board rule promptly on Elk River's Petition, which I understand is unopposed. The West Virginia Rail Authority is anxious to acquire the involved rail line to facilitate local tourism and economic development, which will have significant public benefits in a distressed county (Clay County, West Virginia has a poverty rate approaching 25%) and it is for this reason that I urge the Board to act expeditiously upon Elk River's Petition.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Justice".

Jim Justice
Governor