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December 9, 2020

By E-Filing

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

Re: STB Docket No. AB 1266 (Sub. No. 1X), *Canonie Atlantic Co. – Abandonment Exemption – In Norfolk Va.*

Dear Ms. Brown:

This letter is being filed on behalf of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation ("DRPT") in support of the Petition for Exemption filed in this docket by Canonie Atlantic Co. ("CAC") seeking authority to abandon a 1.4-mile segment of rail line located in the City of Norfolk, Virginia. DRPT is the state agency responsible for planning freight and passenger rail service in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As the petition explains, the short segment of track CAC seeks to abandon is a vestige of a former through railroad line that once extended from Delaware to Virginia. It is now used exclusively to support passenger train service provided in Virginia by Amtrak, specifically by providing a location for Amtrak cars to be serviced near the main line used by Amtrak.

In November 2019 DRPT executed a letter of intent with CAC to purchase the 1.4-mile rail line and associated real estate described in the petition upon its abandonment in order to preserve its use for supporting Amtrak's service in the Commonwealth. No freight service has been provided on this segment of track for well over two years, and there is no expectation that

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any such service would be requested for the indefinite future. Accordingly, the Board's approval of the abandonment of CAC's common carrier obligation to provide freight service over this segment of track is appropriate. DRPT expects that it and CAC will finalize the terms and conditions of the sale of the track and underlying real estate in the third quarter of 2021.

The undersigned certifies that a copy of this letter has been served on all parties of record in this proceeding. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. Wilcox
*Attorney for the Virginia Department of Rail and Public
Transportation*



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