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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
**THE GENERAL COURT**  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
March 15, 2021  
Part of  
Public Record

March 12, 2021

Mrs. Cynthia T. Brown, Chief  
Section of Administration  
Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
Washington DC, 20423-001

RE: FD 36472 *CSX Corporation and CSX Transportation, Inc.—Control and Merger — Pan-Am Systems Inc., et al.*

Dear Mrs. Cynthia Brown:

Please accept this letter as a formal comment on the CSX Pan-Am transfer, filed under Docket Number FD\_36472. We, the undersigned Merrimack Valley Legislative Delegation, write to request your favorable consideration for the inclusion of certain Haverhill Commuter Rail Line infrastructure improvements in this acquisition.

The Massachusetts Legislature voted in 2020 to approve a Transportation Bond Bill that included two key infrastructure improvements to the Haverhill Commuter Rail: construction of a double track railway at Ballardvale Station in Andover, and level boarding at Haverhill line stations.

In 2010, the MBTA started a project to add 8 miles of double-track on the Haverhill Line between Lawrence and Wilmington, but only a mere 2 miles of track have been completed and put in service to date. As a result, single track stations like Ballardvale in Andover experience slower, less reliable train service. Currently, if trains break down on the single-tracked stretch, commuters are stuck and unable to get into Boston. Some local commuters opt to drive to other, more distant stations for better service, adding to their commute.

The Haverhill Commuter Rail Line serves thousands of commuters in the Merrimack Valley, but, as previously stated, is often delayed and unreliable. The construction of a double-track railway at Ballardvale Station will provide commuters with the direct and efficient service they deserve. Adding level-boarding will make the line more accessible and allow wheelchair users to

board trains safely. These much-needed improvements will help support transit-oriented development and increase rail ridership as residents begin to return to their commutes.

These infrastructure improvements have the support of the Massachusetts state legislature, the Andover Town Manager Andrew Flanagan, and the local Merrimack Valley Transportation Management Association. We formally request your commitment to completing these infrastructure improvements as part of this acquisition. Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please contact State Senator Barry Finegold at [barry.finegold@masenate.gov](mailto:barry.finegold@masenate.gov) with any questions.

Sincerely,



State Senator Barry R. Finegold  
Second Essex & Middlesex District



State Senator Diana DiZoglio  
First Essex District



State Senator Bruce E. Tarr  
First Essex and Middlesex District



State Representative Linda Dean Campbell  
Fifteenth Essex District



Representative Andres X. Vargas  
Third Essex District

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vargas".

State Representative Tram T. Nguyen  
Eighteenth Essex District

Handwritten initials "FM" in black ink.

State Representative Frank A. Moran  
Seventeenth Essex District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Minicucci".

State Representative Christina A. Minicucci  
Fourteenth Essex District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Devers".

State Representative Marcos A. Devers  
Sixteenth Essex District