

**PORT OF
PASCAGOULA**

Mississippi's Largest Port

JACKSON COUNTY
PORT AUTHORITY

301966

April 12, 2021

Ms. Allison Davis
Director, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
April 13, 2021
Part of
Public Record

Re: Gulf Coast Passenger Rail Service / STB Finance Docket No. 36496

Dear Ms. Davis,

Restoration of passenger rail service terminated by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 has seen residents working alongside local, state, and federal officials to help restore the Mississippi Coast's economy. Twice – daily passenger service between New Orleans and Mobile, with stops in Bay St. Louis, Gulfport, Biloxi, and Pascagoula utilizing freight rail infrastructure, can attract tourists, facilitate business travel, provide a safe alternative to highway, and improve quality of life in South Mississippi.

To assist in this effort, the Port of Pascagoula modified the design of our 2015 rail relocation project to move the MS Export RR/CSX interchange off the CSX mainline, thereby reducing congestion on it. Without being able to address the other segments of the proposed route, we feel that passenger and freight rail can coexist in Pascagoula and hope STB will look favorably on AMTRAK'S request.

Sincerely,



Mark McAndrews
Port Director

cc: Service List for Finance Docket No. 36496

Port of Pascagoula

3033 Pascagoula St. | P.O. Box 70
Pascagoula, Mississippi 39568-0070
Tel: 228-762-4041 | Fax: 228-762-7476

Miami Office

15002 SW 146th St.
Miami, Florida 33196
Tel: 303-254-3117 | Fax: 305-252-7936

www.portofpascagoula.com