



**JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

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April 22, 2021

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
April 22, 2021
Part of
Public Record

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

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

Dear Ms. Davis:

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated the entire Gulf Coast region and damaged local rail infrastructure, resulting in a halt to passenger rail service. Recognizing the importance of passenger rail to our transportation network, local, state, and federal officials have been working together to restore such service to the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Reconnecting the Gulf Coast to our nation's passenger rail network will provide unique opportunities to revive the coastal economy as it emerges from the pandemic. Amtrak has the right to access the necessary freight rail infrastructure and is prepared to begin operating two daily trains along the Gulf Coast route beginning in 2022.

We support Amtrak's petition to the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to permit the use of freight rail infrastructure for passenger service between New Orleans and Mobile, with stops in Bay St. Louis, Gulfport, Biloxi, and Pascagoula, and we ask for your serious consideration.

Sincerely,

W. Brian Fulton
Jackson County Administrator

cc: Service List for Finance Docket No. 36496