



Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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July 6, 2021

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The Honorable Senator Roger F. Wicker
555 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wicker,

Thank you for your letter regarding Application of the National Railroad Passenger Corp. Under 49 U.S.C. § 24308(e) – CSX Transportation, Inc. and Norfolk Southern Railway Co., FD 36496. I appreciate hearing your views in this matter.

As you know, on March 16, 2021, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) filed an application with the Board, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 24308(e), for entry of an order requiring CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), and Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) to allow Amtrak to operate additional intercity passenger trains over the rail lines of CSXT and NSR between New Orleans, La., and Mobile, Ala. (Gulf Coast Service), beginning on or about January 1, 2022. Amtrak also requests that the Board issue an interim order requiring CSXT and NSR to provide Amtrak with access to their rail lines between New Orleans and Mobile in order to begin preparing for Gulf Coast Service to commence on or about January 1, 2022. On April 5, 2021, CSXT and NSR filed a motion to dismiss Amtrak's application. On April 26, 2021, Amtrak filed a response in opposition to CSXT and NSR's motion to dismiss.

While I cannot comment on this proceeding because it is under active consideration, I can assure you the STB takes its responsibilities with respect to passenger rail matters seriously and will carefully consider all comments and submissions filed in this proceeding.

Again, thank you for taking the time to inform me of your views. Your letter, along with this response, will be entered into the docket. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Michael Higgins, Acting Director of the Board's Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance, at (202) 245-0238 or michael.higgins@stb.gov.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Oberman
Chairman