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



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ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 26, 2021
Part of
Public Record

**Re: FD 36398, Brookhaven Rail LLC – Construction and Operation
Exemption – Suffolk County, New York**

Dear Ms. Brown,

I am writing to urge the Surface Transportation Board to carefully review any request by Brookhaven Rail LLC for a waiver regarding local zoning laws, environmental reviews, or public participation laws in connection with its proposed waste transfer station. Community support for any project is critical, and it has come to my attention that many members of the community oppose this project. I would encourage you to listen to these objections before making your decision on any request by Brookhaven Rail LLC.

Here in New York, we are fighting for environmental justice for communities of color. For too long, these communities have been severely impacted by discriminatory zoning laws and face the most devastating effects of climate change. I support the New York State NAACP and the Brookhaven NAACP in their calls for environmental justice. Any review of Brookhaven Rail LLC's request for waivers should include a full and fair consideration of the objections submitted by the State and Town NAACP.

My district is located west of this proposed transfer station, so the trains used to transport the trash will come through my district. Long Islanders deserve to know that this plan is thoroughly vetted by the community with local controls, oversight, and approvals. Once again, I would urge the Surface Transportation Board to thoroughly review any request by Brookhaven Rail LLC for a waiver regarding local zoning laws, environmental reviews, or public participation laws and to keep in mind the strong objections by the New York State and Brookhaven chapters of the NAACP. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

KATHLEEN M. RICE
Member of Congress

