

Kevin Malecek

Economic Development Director, City of Mentor

February 7, 2022

Re: Docket No. FD 36496

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to participate in the public hearing on February 15, 2022, regarding docket No. FD 36496.

I am the Director of Economic Development in Mentor, Ohio and a passenger rail supporter.

As it relates to the NOLA to AL Amtrak expansion, I fear that blocking this critical first expansion jeopardises all other proposed expansions throughout the country. I am commenting from Mentor, Ohio which is committed to and depending on expanded rail service to our NE Ohio Region.

We know this expansion will improve traffic and our environment, increase worker productivity and drive economic expansion. I will add, Amtrak's investment in expanded routes and service will create skilled labor jobs in our communities.

Sincerely,

Kevin Malecek