

February 7, 2022

303713

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
February 7, 2022
Part of
Public Record

Re: Docket No. FD 36496 – Notice of Intent to Participate

Dear Surface Transportation Board Members,

In accordance with orders promulgated in the notice of public hearing released on February 1, 2022, we are writing to express our intent to participate in the public hearing on February 15, 2022, regarding Docket No. FD 36496.

Public comment will be provided on behalf of the Southeast Louisiana (SoLA) Super Region, a partnership between the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, Greater New Orleans, Inc. and the South Louisiana Economic Council to foster cooperation for mutual economic benefits across Southeast Louisiana. The proposed speaker, representing SoLA, is Michael Hecht, President and CEO of Greater New Orleans, Inc. The proposed speaker's email is mhecht@gnoinc.org.

We request three minutes of public comment time to address key points. These points include:

- Support for the Gulf Coast Service expansion
- Importance of regional rail development for regional economic competitiveness
- Passenger rail's role in enhancing economic mobility, workforce connections, and quality of life
- Passenger rail's ability to act as an additional, reliable evacuation route

We thank you for your consideration of this matter, and we appreciate the opportunity to comment on this docket.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Hecht".

Michael Hecht
President and CEO
Greater New Orleans, Inc.