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Cynthia T. Brown
Chief of the Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Gulf Coast Passenger Service Between New Orleans and Mobile
STB Finance Docket No. 36496

Dear Ms. Brown:

I, Thelma Drake, am filing this notice of my intent to participate in the February 15, 2022 Gulf Coast hearing before the Board. I am the former Director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation ("VDRPT"). I request 10 minutes of speaking time to address the following key points:

- In my time as Director at VDRPT from 2009-2014, we started and expanded both VRE commuter service and also new Amtrak inter-city service and also funded numerous projects to grow freight operations in Commonwealth of Virginia.
- For any new service, VDRPT did such development based on RTC studies of current and future freight as we had to protect the current and future vitality of the entire rail network, both current and future freight and passenger service.
- The freight railroads were always good partners in my experience who engaged in good faith and worked hard to find collaborative solutions.

I will also provide my email address to the Board today via an email to Hearings@stb.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Thelma Drake

Thelma Drake