



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0090

Brian P. Kemp
GOVERNOR

February 14, 2022

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Office of Proceedings
February 16, 2022
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RE: E-Filing

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

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

Dear Surface Transportation Board Members:

We are writing to express our concern regarding the potential addition of four Amtrak trains per day during peak hours over the mostly single-track Gulf Coast Corridor between New Orleans, Louisiana and Mobil, Alabama and operated for freight rail by CSX Transportation.

The potential affects of such service, without added infrastructure, could be adversely realized in Georgia, where CSX operates over 1,600 miles of track, serves hundreds of customers throughout the state and is an important cog in the already strained supply chain machine.

These concerns are magnified by the fact that a study has already determined the introduction of Gulf Coast passenger service will cause a significant burden to freight service. Delays to freight service would also have a negative impact on Georgia's Ports, which are among the fastest growing in the nation and serve a significant portion of the eastern United States.

The state of Georgia strongly supports the development of transportation infrastructure facilities that will serve our citizens and businesses now and in the future. We have stated in the past, and reiterate now, that decisions to initiate new passenger rail service must be made with a full understanding of the up-front capital, on-going operational

costs, and the associated immediate and continuing opportunity costs of providing that service that would be required by states and the freight railroads.

We do not oppose the proposed passenger service on the Gulf Coast and do not express an opinion of the merits of that service. However, to initiate that service without the appropriate identified infrastructure and capacity enhancements and by not taking into full account the already completed study, businesses and citizens across the entire operating footprint of CSX could suffer in an already strained supply chain environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B:lh".

Brian P. Kemp
Governor
State of Georgia

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russell McMurry".

Russell McMurry
Commissioner
Georgia Department of Transportation

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Griff Lynch".

Griff Lynch
Executive Director
Georgia Ports Authority

CC: FD 36496 Service List