

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 Surface Transportation Board Members:

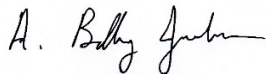
On behalf of the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry, we write to express our concerns regarding the Board's intent to explore Amtrak's use of freight tracks for passenger rail service operating between New Orleans, Louisiana and Mobile, Alabama. This effort could have serious implications to Tennessee businesses and manufacturers.

As both the American and Tennessee supply chains face significant strain, we are concerned this effort could compromise the ability to move freight swiftly and safely for the benefit of manufacturers and ultimately consumers. Any consideration to combine passenger service with freight service must be given significant research regarding capacity enhancement needs and safety impacts. Effective and predictable logistical operations and supply chains are vitally important for Tennessee businesses and manufacturers across our entire state.

We understand the importance of passenger rail, however, any expansion effort must consider the potentially significant impacts to manufacturing and our economy. Tennessee is one of the top states in our great nation for manufacturing and to maintain this distinction as a continued destination for expansions, relocations and reshoring projects manufacturers require consistent access to freight options.

We respectfully ask the Board to follow an established process to identify and complete any and all infrastructure, safety and rail capacity needs carefully that take into account all impacts to business and manufacturing. Thank you for your service and attention to this communication.

Sincerely,



Bradley Jackson
President and CEO
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry

cc: FD 36496 Service List