



Jim Justice
Governor of West Virginia

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March 8, 2022

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
Board Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

The Honorable Michelle A. Schultz
Vice Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

The Honorable Robert E. Primus
Board Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

The Honorable Karen J. Hedlund
Board Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: STB Docket No. AB 1314X, The Elk River Railroad, Inc. –
Abandonment Exemption – In Kanawha & Clay Counties, WV

Dear Chairman Oberman, Vice Chairman Schultz, and Members Fuchs, Primus and Hedlund:

I write in support of the Amended Verified Notice of Exemption for Abandonment submitted by The Elk River Railroad (TERRI) in the above-captioned proceeding and respectfully request that the Surface Transportation Board reinstate the proceeding and promptly publish TERRI's Notice (as amended). The West Virginia State Rail Authority has negotiated, and is anxious to execute, an agreement with TERRI to acquire and railbank the involved rail line for the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources to operate as a State Park. The State's plan will have significant public benefits, including facilitating local tourism and fostering economic development in a distressed county, and it is for these reasons that I urge the Board to act expeditiously upon TERRI's Amended Notice.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Jim Justice
Governor