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February 25, 2022

Cynthia T. Brown

Chief of the Section of Administration

Office of Proceedings

Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street SW

Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: *Application of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation under 49 U.S.C. § 24308(e) – CSX Transportation, Inc., and Norfolk Southern Railway Company, FD 36496*

Dear Ms. Brown:

As our nation continues to struggle with an unprecedented supply chain crisis, we are writing to request that the Surface Transportation Board not grant Amtrak's application for an order compelling CSXT Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), and Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) to provide Amtrak access to CSXT and NSR facilities to commence passenger rail service between New Orleans, Louisiana, and Mobile, Alabama, on Amtrak's terms, which include no infrastructure mitigation measures.

The Port of Mobile is a valuable piece of the global supply chain and plays a significant economic role, generating \$25.5 billion in annual economic output and supporting nearly 161,000 jobs. Delays and added congestion will equate to customer dissatisfaction, increased costs to shippers and adverse impact on business competitiveness across the state.

Mobile's business community is united in asking the STB not to grant Amtrak's application to commence passenger rail service between New Orleans and Mobile without an appropriate freight mobility study that accounts for the freight service disruption it would cause. Doing so will adversely impact the Port of Mobile and ultimately harm our region's productivity, global competitiveness, and quality of life.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Poiroux, AACE
Executive Director

Chris Black
President

cc: All parties of record

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ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
March 16, 2022
Part of
Public Record