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VIA E-FILE

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

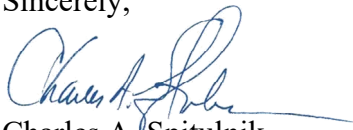
Re: STB Docket No. AB 1311, *Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company—Adverse
Discontinuance of Trackage Rights—Housatonic Railroad Company*

Dear Ms. Brown:

This is to advise the Board that the parties in the above referenced matter have commenced settlement negotiations in an effort to resolve the issues raised in this proceeding. We respectfully request the Board to hold these proceedings in abeyance to allow sufficient time for the parties to finalize the terms of a possible settlement. We will update the Board as discussions in this matter progress.

Please note that Edward Rodriguez, counsel to the Housatonic Railroad Company, has authorized us to state that his client concurs with this request.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Spitulnik
Counsel to Metro-North Railroad Company

Cc: All Parties of Record
Susan Sarch, Esq.
Edward Rodriguez, Esq.