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September 14, 2022

Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20024-3281

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FD 36406

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
September 28, 2022
Part of
Public Record

Dear Ms. Brown,

It has come to my attention that a Petition for Exemption has been filed by the Port Authority of Kansas City (Port KC) with the Surface Transportation Board seeking authority to construct and operate approximately 2.8 miles of new railroad in Kansas City, MO connecting the Missouri River to the interstate rail system. Port KC's proposed line will serve the Missouri River Terminal (MRT) project. MRT's location at the center of Kansas City and its connectivity to the Missouri River, the interstate rail network and the interstate highway system will provide an attractive option for shippers moving cargo through Kansas City's rail network or via the Missouri River.

Port KC is revitalizing the former AK Steel facility - located on the Missouri River within the Blue River Valley Industrial Corridor - to develop it as a multimodal freight center that will expand the region's capacity for efficient management of intermodal containers into and out of the local area and regional freight market. The proposed line is an integral part of Port KC's plan for the development of MRT. Port KC's proposed line and the MRT project will provide valuable transportation facilities to aid the region in meeting the anticipated growth in freight movements through Kansas City. The re-development of the former AK Steel facility provides a potential economic stimulus to the Blue River Valley Industrial Corridor, an area that has suffered from disinvestment as industries, like AK Steel, have left the region.

Port KC's mission is to grow the economy of Kansas City through transportation, logistics, and revitalization. It has a proven record of success in meeting this mission. We think that the Kansas City region will greatly benefit from Port KC's proposed line and the MRT project and respectfully request that the Board approve the Port KC Petition for Exemption.

Sincere regards,


Roy Blunt
United States Senator

