

SENATE OF VIRGINIA

ANGELIA WILLIAMS GRAVES
21ST SENATORIAL DISTRICT
PART OF THE CITY OF NORFOLK

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
GENERAL LAWS AND TECHNOLOGY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

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Cynthia T. Brown
Chief of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Proceedings
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
August 11, 2025
Part of
Public Record

July 23, 2025

Re: STB Docket No. FD 36836

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing to share my concerns regarding the petition submitted by Norfolk Southern in STB Docket No. FD 36836, which seeks to assume control of the Norfolk Portsmouth Belt Line Railroad. As the Senator representing the 21st District, which includes many communities in the City of Norfolk, I have a keen interest in decisions that directly affect the transportation infrastructure, economic vitality, and quality of life in our region.

The Port of Virginia is a critical economic engine for the Commonwealth and a major employer and source of growth in my district. Ensuring competitive and efficient rail access to and from the Port is essential to supporting its continued success. It has come to my attention that CSX does not currently have direct on-dock rail access to Norfolk International Terminals (NIT), a situation that has persisted for decades and continues to hinder competition.

The absence of such access for CSX has significant consequences for Norfolk residents. Without the ability to move cargo efficiently by rail, many containers must be transported by truck through densely populated areas of the city—particularly along Hampton Boulevard. This corridor serves not only port-related traffic, but also residential neighborhoods, Old Dominion University, and Sentara Norfolk General Hospital. The resulting congestion, combined with increased safety concerns, is a growing issue for constituents and stakeholders alike.

The Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization's 2021 Corridor Study underscored this challenge, highlighting substantial public concern about truck volumes on Hampton Boulevard. The limitations on nighttime trucking exacerbate the issue by concentrating this heavy truck traffic into daytime hours, increasing conflict with other vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians.

I respectfully urge the Surface Transportation Board to consider the broader implications of this petition, not only in terms of market competition but also public safety and environmental impact. Allowing both CSX and Norfolk Southern comparable on-dock rail access to NIT at fair and reasonable rates would enhance freight efficiency, reduce road congestion, and better serve the interests of our port, our economy, and the people of Norfolk.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact my office should you require additional information or local perspective.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angelia Williams Graves". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Angelia" being the most prominent.

Angelia Williams Graves, Senator

Senate District 21

"Doing Good Work on Your Behalf!"

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