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December 4, 2025

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VIA E-FILING

Chief, Section of Case Administration
Office of Chief Counsel
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
December 4, 2025
Part of
Public Record

Re: *The Commuter Rail Division of the Regional Transportation Authority and the Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Transportation Authority d/b/a Metra – Adverse Abandonment – OmniTRAX/Chicago Rail Link, AB-1337*

Notice of Appearance of Counsel and Abeyance Status Report of Chicago Rail Link, L.L.C.

To the Chief of Case Administration:

Chicago Rail Link, L.L.C. (“CRL”) respectfully submits this status report to the Surface Transportation Board (the “Board”) in the above-captioned matter. The Board previously agreed to hold the matter in abeyance to facilitate a negotiated resolution of the underlying dispute, with the intent of potentially averting adverse abandonment litigation.

Notice of Appearance of Counsel

CRL requests that this proceeding’s service list be updated to reflect the appearance of the undersigned counsel as CRL’s legal representative, effective immediately.

Status of Negotiations and Preference for Continued Abeyance

The parties are unable to file a status report jointly due to disagreement regarding the continuation of abeyance.

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CRL remains committed to prioritizing a negotiated resolution that addresses Metra's needs while preserving CRL's status and rights as a common carrier. To that end, CRL, through the undersigned counsel, recently advanced a proposal outlining a transaction allowing for the voluntary transfer of CRL's railroad assets to Metra subject to CRL's retention of a common carrier interest in the property. This proposal, articulated just over a week ago, reflects CRL's belief that abeyance continuation remains in the public interest, as it would conserve the Board's resources and enable the parties to focus exclusively on a transaction structure facilitative of private settlement.

CRL is disappointed that Metra intends to move ahead with the prosecution of an adverse abandonment effort. The Board should note Metra's apparent decision to prioritize litigation over negotiation, despite the existence of a viable, voluntary alternative that Metra has yet to consider fully, if at all.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *R. A. Wimbish*

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cc: All parties of record