

MULLINS LAW GROUP PLLC*Transportation Solutions for the 21st Century*2001 L Street NW, Suite 720
Washington, DC 20036William A. Mullins
wmullins@mullinslawgroup.net
mullinslawgroup.netTelephone: (202) 663-7850
Direct: (202) 663-7823
Facsimile: (202) 459-2115

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VIA E-FilingChief of Case Administration
Office of Chief Counsel
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001ALJ Jenifer Soulikias
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001
Email: alj.soulikias.inbox@stb.gov**ENTERED**
Office of Chief Counsel
January 27, 2026
Part of
Public RecordRe: Norfolk S. Corp. & Norfolk S. Ry. Co. – Acquisition of Control – Norfolk & Portsmouth Belt Line Rr. Co., FD 36836, Response to CSXT-42
(Sub-No. 1)

Dear Chief of Case Administration and ALJ Soulikias,

Norfolk Southern (“NS”) submits this response to CSX Transportation’s (“CSXT”) January 26, 2026 filing (CSXT-42). CSXT advances the baseless narrative that the NPBL’s Motion to Strike (NPBL-9) was the product of NS’s alleged “de facto economic control” and implies once again that NS and NPBL are purportedly colluding to prevent CSXT from obtaining direct terminal trackage rights to serve NIT. CSXT has made similar allegations for years. Such allegations are not only incorrect—they are entirely unsupported by any evidence in the record. CSXT has advanced this fairy tale theory before and was rejected by the Federal Court. Nothing that CSXT has offered in this proceeding provides even the smallest factual foundation to revive it.

NS had absolutely no role—direct or indirect—in the development, preparation, or filing of NPBL-9. CSXT’s attempt to attribute NPBL’s independent litigation decisions to NS is pure conjecture, repeated without facts because no facts exist. Simply put, CSXT continues to rely on innuendo in place of evidence. That approach is inappropriate in any proceeding before the Board.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ *William A. Mullins*William A. Mullins
Counsel for Norfolk Southern Corporation and
Norfolk Southern Railway Company

cc: Parties of Record