Town of Toms Brook
PO Box 90
Toms Brook, VA 22660
540-436-8000/fax 540-436-8743
http://tomsbrookva.net/
ljgcurrie@yahoo.com
tomsbrook.office@gmail.com

312791

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
November 2, 2026
Part of
Public Record

November 1, 2026
Chief of Case Administration
Office of Chief Counsel
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington DC 20423-0001

**REF:** Docket Actions of AB_290_425_X
NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY--ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION
IN ROCKINGHAM, SHENANDOAH, AND WARREN COUNTIES, VA.

Chief of Case Administration,

As mayor of one of Virginia's smallest incorporated towns, and the only Toms Brook on the globe, I ask that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) deny the request for a proposed abeyance by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation and allow the fair metric-based process of evaluation proceed. This overgrown outdated rail corridor bisects this small town (roughly one mile, US Rt. 11 north to south, and .4 miles in width east to west) in the rail's length from Warren through Shenandoah and south to Rockingham counties.

An open-ended suspension would leave the town of Toms Brook's economic and historical planning in limbo because the town is actively working to establish a historic district with a walking tour and improve the town's natural areas; besides limiting town improvement, the abeyance creates an unknown for the Commonwealth's acquisition, with its Trail Use Request, a request that may bring economic benefits to the overall Valley. Interesting how the word abeyance means a state of uncertainty; uncertainty about this evaluation process does not protect or improve any existing or prospective rail service because, most certainly, there is no service.

Moving forward with abandonment does not foreclose rail: interim trail use and railbanking keep the corridor intact and available for future rail service. For residents who hope to see trains return to the Valley someday, railbanking is the path that preserves that option. Forward movement by STB assures this protection.

With all respect,

Lisa G. Currie
Mayor, Town of Toms Brook