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Office of Chief Counsel
November 6, 2026
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Public Record

Chief of Case Administration
Office of Chief Counsel
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

November 6, 2026

Re: Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 425X) Norfolk Southern Railway Company – Abandonment Exemption – in Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren Counties, Virginia

Dear Chief of Case Administration:
Our company fully supports the restoration of freight rail to the out of service Norfolk Southern line in the Shenandoah Valley. The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation and Manassas Gap Railroads project is fully supported by us. With respect to Docket No. AB-290 425X, we urge the board to stay focused on its mission of freight rail service and allow a full airing of the freight rail option by putting the abandonment notice and the request for trail use in abeyance.

Wholesome Energy is an affiliate of Wholesome Foods, a family-owned business in Shenandoah County that has been in operation since 1964. Since 2008, Wholesome Energy has been in the business of processing waste fats and vegetable oils into products used in biofuel production as well as feed products for the poultry, swine, and pet food industries.

Our company's growth is limited by the availability of the raw products we need. Currently we ship raw material by truck from as far as 500 miles. Our research has shown that our transportation costs would be significantly reduced if we could ship via rail locally and we have already identified a transload location. We currently process 2 million pounds of product per week, with rail access, we will expand production which will help the local economy and remove trucks from crowded interstates. We have served this letter on all Parties of Record.

Sincerely,

Nathan E. Pence
Vice President, Wholesome Companies