VALLEY RAILROAD COMPANY, LLC

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ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
November 6, 2026
Part of
Public Record

November 6th, 2026

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

CC: Parties of Record

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

To the Chief of Case Administration,

Regarding docket No. AB-290 425X, we write in support of restoring freight rail to Norfolk Southern's B-line in the Shenandoah Valley. We have been working on this project with the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation and the Manassas Gap Railroad and their freight partners for some time. We encourage the Board to remain 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.

Valley Railroad Company LLC was established in April 2010 and we have operated out of Shenandoah County since our inception, in which over 71% of this railroad is located. We specialize in the maintenance, repair, replacement, and construction of railroad tracks and related parts. We operate a collection of specialized rail-mounted machinery such as a tamper, crosstie exchanger and ballast regulator to construct safe and smooth railroad tracks for freight customers across the Commonwealth. As an industry professional, I can confirm the intrinsic freight value and viability of freight service on this line. We have been hopeful that rail service would resume on this line and I understand that a freight operator has been selected by the coalition out of at least five viable proposals. The railroad supports our farming neighbors and suppliers by reducing the transportation costs of feeds, fuels, and fertilizers.

We look forward to restoring old freight rail connections and constructing new ones as the railroad returns to service. We strongly urge the Surface Transportation Board to put the abandonment notice and the request for trail use in abeyance, and to support the revival of the requested freight rail service. We have served this letter on all Parties of Record.

Best,



Derek Burgess, Owner, Valley Railroad Company, LLC