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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

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:

In regard to Docket No. AB-290 425X, we write in support of restoring freight rail to Norfolk Southern's line in the Shenandoah Valley. With over 1,600 members, Shenandoah County Farm Bureau is the largest agricultural advocacy organization in the county. Shenandoah County Farm Bureau is a non-governmental, nonpartisan, voluntary organization committed to supporting agriculture and preserving the rural way of life. We reaffirm our attached position which states "Shenandoah County Farm Bureau recognizes the positive impact that future rail could have on farmers and the agricultural industry in the county. The group supports fueling commerce in the region with a revitalized short line railroad." 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. This letter is served on all parties of record.

11-6-26

Aaron Bushong, President
Shenandoah County Farm Bureau, 140 East Reservoir Road Woodstock, VA 22664

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shenandoah County Farm Bureau Endorses "Rails With Trails"

Shenandoah County, September 7, 2023- The Shenandoah County Farm Bureau has announced its endorsement of the "Rails With Trails" initiative, while highlighting the vital role that potential rail service could play in the future in supporting the agricultural industry in Shenandoah County.

The "Rails With Trails" is a bold vision to preserve the Shenandoah Valley's heritage, re-empower the rail line as an economic engine, and create a full range of tourism and recreation opportunities. The state of Virginia is currently negotiating to purchase the 48-mile corridor stretching from Broadway to Front Royal currently owned by Norfolk Southern Railway Corp. Freight rail service on the line has been discontinued.

As the largest membership organization in the county, Shenandoah County Farm Bureau recognizes the positive impact that future rail could have on farmers and the agricultural industry in the county. The group supports fueling commerce in the region with a revitalized short line railroad.

"Shenandoah County Farm Bureau recognizes the potential impact that a short line railroad could have in supporting the agricultural industry, taking traffic off of I-81, and contributing to the economic viability of our county." Said Chuck French, President of Shenandoah County Farm Bureau. "While we recognize there are still questions to be answered, this concept allows us to maintain our valuable rail corridor for the future benefit of farmers and agribusinesses in our community."

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