STRASBURG
VIRGINIA

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ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
November 9, 2026
Part of
Public Record

November 6, 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,

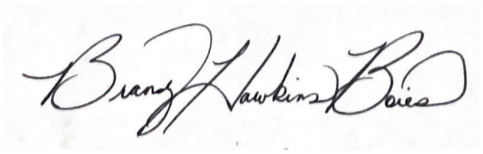
As Mayor of the Town of Strasburg, Virginia, I write to oppose the October 14, 2026, motion by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation and Manassas Gap Railroad LLC to hold this proceeding in abeyance.

The 48.5-mile rail corridor between Front Royal and Broadway passes through Strasburg in Shenandoah County. In its response to Norfolk Southern earlier this year, the Strasburg Town Council stated that the Town would not oppose the proposed abandonment provided the full corridor is preserved intact through federal railbanking. Railbanking would allow interim use as a public trail while keeping the corridor available for future rail service.

An interim trail would advance the goals of Strasburg's 2018 Comprehensive Plan, which calls for more walking and biking connections, including the Town Run Greenway. A trail through Strasburg could give residents another way to reach downtown and connect to a larger regional trail. A prolonged pause would make it harder for the Town to plan those connections and delay consideration of the Virginia Department of Transportation's request for interim trail use. The Town's support for railbanking is independent of who ultimately serves as trail sponsor.

For these reasons, the Town of Strasburg respectfully asks the Board to deny the motion to hold the proceeding in abeyance and lift the stay entered on October 22,

Respectfully,



Brandy Hawkins Boies
Mayor, Town of Strasburg, Virginia
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