YORK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

YORK COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
28 East Market Street
York, Pennsylvania 17401-1588

J. Scott Burford
Vice President Commissioner

SBurford@Yorkcountypa.gov
Phone: 717-771-9303
Fax: 717-771-9804

312827

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
November 09, 2026
Part of
Public Record

November 9th, 2026

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

To the Chief of Case Administration,

I am writing to you in support of restoring freight rail to Norfolk Southern's B-line in the Shenandoah Valley. The County of York is the 8th largest County in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with a population base of approximately 470,000 residents. York has a rich history with its railroad community, which has naturally evolved over the decades from freight/transportation to freight, transportation and tourism. You may ask why a York County Commissioner is interested in a Virginia issue. I became aware of the opportunity to support the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation and the Manassas Gap Railroad in their efforts to restore freight rail service to the line, in large part because of the successes that York County has seen over the decades when what may appear to be competing interests, work together collaboratively. **I urge 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.**

During my tenure as county commissioner, I have had the pleasure of working in partnership with Northern Central Railway, to establish a cohesive collaboration that broadens our local tourism industry and quality of life opportunities for our residents of York County. Our partnership has strengthened over the years and produced an award-winning example of "Rails-WITH-Trails"; illustrating the point that multi-model systems can work collaboratively, and work safely together. We operate one of the longest "Rails-WITH-Trails" in the country and

regularly host cycling events, marathons, and other activities alongside the active railroad with no problem whatsoever. This happens to be one of my most treasured partnerships as an elected official, outdoor enthusiast and avid cyclist. Without the railroad excursions, the trail would provide minimal economic benefit to the local economy when compared with its synergy of the railroad. In conjunction with our York County Economic Alliance, which serves as the County's Economic Development Agency and Chamber of Commerce, York County has branded a *Trail Towns* initiative, promoting small businesses and outdoor recreation along the rail trail. This initiative has created and sustained 36 businesses along the Heritage Rail Trail. Additionally, the initiative has resulted in a 37.7% increase in annual patronage to small businesses along our Rail Trail, equating to a $250M dollar direct and indirect economic impact to our outdoor business ecosystem.

Therefore, I am compelled to write in full support of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation's efforts to establish a similar, collaborative, interdepartmental partnership to develop Rails-WITH-Trails in Virginia and reinvigorate transportation of freight and goods along the I-81 corridor. My office is happy to advise or assist the Foundation, the Commonwealth of Virginia and other stakeholders in modeling this collaboration. **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.**

Sincerely,



Scott Burford
Chair, YAMPO Coordinating Committee
Vice President, York County Commissioners