312829

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
November 10, 2026
Part of
Public Record

P.O. Box 2277, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

November 10, 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

Dear Chief of Case Administration:

Virginia Poultry Federation (VPF) writes in support of restoring freight rail to Norfolk Southern's line in the Shenandoah Valley. We have been working with the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation and the Manassas Gap Railroad on this project for some time. Citing Docket No. AB-290-425X, 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.

VPF is the statewide trade association representing the poultry industry in Virginia. According to a recent economic study[1][i], the poultry and egg industry in Virginia employs as many as 20,451 people across the Commonwealth on family farms and at processing plants, feed mills, hatcheries, and other operations and generates an additional 39,907 jobs in supplier and ancillary industries. The study shows the industry has a direct economic impact of $8.3 billion and overall contribute $17.8 billion in economic activity in the Commonwealth. Much of this economic activity is in the Shenandoah Valley.

Rail infrastructure is critical to the Valley's poultry industry, delivering corn and soybean meal from the Mid-West. The Norfolk Southern line running north from Broadway, Virginia once delivered feed ingredients for poultry operations, and while the line is not currently in service, the Shenandoah Rail Corridor coalition, of which VPF is a member, envisions reestablishing rail service that could benefit agriculture, tourism, and potentially passengers. We believe it would be a

[1][i] 2024 Poultry and Egg Economic Impact Study, Prepared for U.S. Poultry & Egg Association by John Dunham and Associates, Inc., Brooklyn, New York (https://www.poultryfeedsamerica.org/#:~:text

mistake to abandon permanently rail infrastructure that could potentially benefit commerce, including the poultry and ag sector in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Hobey Bauhan
President

CC: Parties of Record