

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 8, 2025

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Office of Chief Counsel

September 8, 2025

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The Honorable Patrick Fuchs, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E St SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: FD No. 36447, Lake Providence Port Commission—Feeder Line Application—Line of Delta Southern Railroad Located in East Carroll and Madison Parishes, Louisiana

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

We write to you concerning the Feeder Line Application filed by the Lake Providence Port Commission (LPPC), which has now been pending for nearly five years.

As you know, this rail corridor is a vital part of the effort to revitalize freight transportation and economic growth in one of the most underserved regions of our country: northeast Louisiana and southern Arkansas. Despite the millions of dollars the State of Louisiana and Arkansas have invested in rehabilitating the portion of the line it owns in both Louisiana and Arkansas, Delta Southern Railroad has spent only a small amount on maintaining its part of the line. In fact, part of that segment managed by Delta Southern is currently used to store railcars because of its poor condition, preventing transportation from the Lake Providence Port to the CPKC Railroad to the south. The restoration of this line, which has been backed by significant federal and state funding, is long overdue.

In an effort to address this issue, in June 2025, the Louisiana Legislature unanimously passed SB 146 (Act 334), which has since been signed into law by Governor Jeff Landry. The legislation explicitly affirms LPPC's legal authority to acquire and operate additional rail infrastructure beyond East Carroll Parish, and codifies LPPC's statutory authority, removing one of the few remaining barriers to advancing this Application.

We were pleased to see your August 13, 2025, response to a recent letter to Members of the House of Representatives, where you stated your commitment that the Board will take its next action in this matter by the end of September. Given the clear public interest, the urgent need for infrastructure investment in the region, and the Applicant's persistent good-faith efforts over a number of years, we respectfully request the Board to expeditiously advance LPPC's Application and to advance the proceeding without further delay.

We thank you for your attention to this issue and for your continued commitment to ensuring fair and efficient oversight of our country's rail system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Kennedy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

John Kennedy
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Cassidy, M.D.". The signature is cursive and includes the title "M.D." at the end.

Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Boozman". The signature is cursive and flows smoothly.

John Boozman
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Cotton". The signature is cursive and features a prominent, stylized "C" at the end.

Tom Cotton
United States Senator