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July 19, 2012

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 19, 2012
Part of
Public Record

Re: STB Docket No. EP 699, *Assessment of Mediation and Arbitration
Procedures*

Dear Ms. Brown:

Pursuant to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPR") served on March 28, 2012, and the decision served by the Board on June 28, 2012, Norfolk Southern Railway Company ("NSR") provides this notice of its intent to participate in the public hearing scheduled in this proceeding on August 2, 2012.

NSR will be represented by John M. Scheib, General Counsel -- Commerce. A time of five minutes is requested for Mr. Scheib's testimony.

NSR's testimony will discuss its support for the existing structure of the Board's arbitration program, and will present its views about the aspect of the proposed regulations that would require NSR to agree to arbitration on a blanket basis for unspecified disputes unless it "opts-out" of the arbitration process.

If the Board establishes panels of witnesses for the hearing, NSR requests that it be placed on a panel with other railroads that will be appearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg E. Summy
General Solicitor