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April 26, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Cynthia Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Proceedings
395 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
April 26, 2018
Part of
Public Record

Re: *Commuter Rail Div. of the Reg'l Transp. Auth. & Ne. Ill. Reg'l Commuter
R.R. Corp. – Petition for Declaratory Order – Status of Chi. Union
Station, STB Finance Docket No. 36171*

Dear Ms. Brown:

This Firm represents the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) in connection with its provision of the MARC Commuter Rail Service. On behalf of the MTA, we are writing to support the Commuter Rail Division of the Regional Transportation Authority and the Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation's (collectively, "Metra") request for a Board-ordered procedural schedule in the above referenced matter, as well as to advise the Board of MTA's interest in the matters presented by Metra's Petition.

MTA and Amtrak are parties to an agreement which grants MTA access to and use of the Washington Union Station and certain additional assets of the Washington Terminal Company ("WTCO") in its provision of the MARC Commuter Rail Service. The Board's resolution of the matters raised in Metra's position may impact MTA's rights under the agreement with Amtrak and/or the mechanisms available to MTA to enforce those rights.

Accordingly, MTA has a significant interest in the outcome of this proceeding. We strongly urge the Board to ensure there is an adequate opportunity for MTA and its stakeholders to participate by instituting a proceeding and adopting the procedural schedule Metra proposed.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Spitulnik

cc: All Parties of Record