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April 19, 2017

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Cynthia T. Brown, Chief
Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington DC 20423-0001

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**Re: Norfolk Southern Railway Company - Abandonment Exemption
Roanoke, Virginia, AB-290 (Sub-No. 389X)**

Dear Ms. Brown:

This letter comments on the Response by City of Roanoke, Virginia ("City") filed under this date to the Notice of Intent to File an Offer of Financial Assistance ("OFA") filed by David L. Foster and Thoroughbred Energy & Environmental Corp (collectively, "Offeror"), dated and filed April 13, 2017.

Offeror acknowledges the milepost error at the top of page 2 of City's Response. Initially in this Docket filing, Norfolk Southern ("NS") had the mileposts reversed, and later on March 15, 2017 filed an Errata Sheet to correct the mileposts said to have been depicted backwards. Offeror's draft filing predated this correction by NS and this reference cited by City failed to be updated. Offeror regrets the oversight and thanks City for clarifying the record on this point.

City states in its Response that intended Greenway use of the half-mile of Roanoke Belt Line ("Line"), the subject of this Abandonment Exception, cannot happen with the track remaining in place ("The uses are incompatible and unworkable."), but no evidence nor justification is presented for this claim.

In fact City has no intent to run the Greenway on the abandoned right of way; but, as detailed in Offeror's Transmittal Letter of April 13, to use the *threat to do so* as leverage on Walker Machine & Foundry Company to cede access to its property along the riverfront. This threat can be deployed with equal clout with or without the track in place and provides no basis for creating a half-mile gap in the seven-mile Line, forever foreclosing through future rail operations.

By my signature below, I Certify that copies of this letter have been sent, by e-mail and U.S. mail, on April 19, 2017, to the following parties of record:

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "David L. Foster", is positioned above a horizontal line.

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