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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

JENNIFER MITCHELL
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July 27, 2018

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



RE: **Docket No. FD 36202**
Buckingham Branch Railroad Company – Change in Operators Exemption –
Cassatt Management, LLC d/b/a Bay Coast Railroad

Dear Ms. Brown:

I write to express the Commonwealth of Virginia's support for the pending waiver request of Buckingham Branch Railroad Company ("BB") in the above-captioned matter. The partial waiver requested would permit BB to begin operations in the Norfolk, Virginia area on August 1, 2018, and avoid a two-week disruption of vital rail service through no fault of shippers or BB. Granting the partial waiver will ensure continued, uninterrupted rail service to an area that is critically important to the regional and national economies.

Norfolk is a critical gateway for goods and commodities; the availability of reliable rail service is one of the biggest economic incentives for shippers to locate in the area. As the record reflects, timely rail service is critical to local shippers, among them a transloading operation tasked with efficient handling of dry foods and minerals, and an important manufacturer of shipping products and fabricating machines. I am also aware of a propane importer that relies on rail service for timely delivery of energy resources.

The Commonwealth has a keen interest in continued, uninterrupted rail service given the consequences of disruption to local business and economic interests. We firmly support BB's petition for waiver and respectfully urge the Board to act promptly on this matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mitchell



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I certify that I have this day served copies of the document upon the Parties of Record in this proceeding, by UPS overnight delivery.

Signature Linda Balderson Date 7/31/18