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February 16, 2018

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Office of Proceedings
February 16, 2018
Part of
Public Record

BY E-FILING

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

RE: Hartwell First United Methodist Church – Adverse Abandonment and
Discontinuance – The Great Walton Railroad Company, Inc. in Hart County, GA,
Surface Transportation Board, Docket No. AB 1242

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME
TO FILE AMENDED LEASE
TO MARCH 23, 2018

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am an attorney at law, duly admitted to the State Bar of Georgia, and am duly admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Georgia (the highest court of the State of Georgia). I represent TORCH of Hartwell, Inc. ("TORCH"), an interested party in the referenced proceeding, and am authorized to submit this request in behalf of TORCH. By a Decision dated January 31, 2018 (January 31 Decision), the Surface Transportation Board directed The Great Walton Railroad Company ("GWRC") to enter into an amendment of its lease with TORCH to address certain Section 10901 issues and file with the Board a copy of the amended lease by March 2, 2018. January 31 Decision, slip op. at 8, 9. TORCH requests that the Board extend to March 23, 2018, the time for the filing of the amendment.

TORCH makes this request because TORCH desires to consider the proposed lease in a less rushed and hurried manner and to have ample time to negotiate the terms of the amended lease. Additionally, TORCH is a nonprofit corporation. Any approval or consideration of a proposed lease must be made by action of its Board of Directors at a called or regular meeting. All of the directors are volunteers, serve without compensation, and have busy schedules. As a result, it is generally difficult to schedule a called meeting of the Board on short notice. Because the Board intends to receive funding from public sources, the Board complies with the Georgia Open Meetings Act, which limits the Board's ability to take action by consent, so an open meeting or meetings will be necessary to approve any amendment, and it may take more than

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one meeting to complete the process of approving an amendment. When TORCH recently entered into a previous amendment of the lease in response to the Board's Decision of August 31, 2018, TORCH found it to be very challenging to comply with a thirty-day deadline. Additionally, TORCH is considering the possibility of consulting with an attorney with expertise in decisions of the Board. Although TORCH may decide that such consultation is not feasible or practical, TORCH anticipates that the process of locating counsel and determining the feasibility of retaining such counsel may take several weeks. For all of these reasons, TORCH anticipates that complying with the current deadline will limit TORCH's ability to consider the amendment in a thoughtful and thorough manner.

Consequently, TORCH respectfully requests that the Board extend to March 23, 2018, the time for GWRC to file an amendment to the lease between TORCH and GWRC. As required by 49 C.F.R. § 1104.7(b), I am submitting this request to extend the time period for GWRC to file a copy of the amended lease no less than ten (10) days before the due date for such filing.

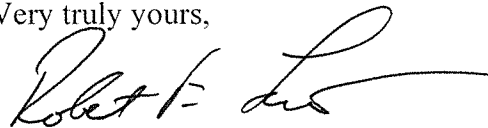
I have conferred with Richard Streeter, counsel for GWRC, and Eric Hocky, counsel for The Hartwell First United Methodist Church, and they have graciously advised me that they do not oppose the request.

I hereby certify that I have this day served copies of this letter upon all parties of record in this proceeding, identified on the attached service list, by the method specified on such list.

Please call me if you have any questions about this matter.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert F. Leverett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert F. Leverett

RFL/ss

cc: All Parties shown on the Attached Service List

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