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September 29, 2017

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman, Acting Chairman
United States Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington D.C. 20423

The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott III, Vice Chairman
United States Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington D.C. 20423

The Honorable Deb Miller, Member
United States Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington D.C. 20423

Re: EP 742 Public Listening Session Regarding CSX Transportation, Inc.'s Rail Service Issues

Honorable Begeman, Honorable Elliott, and Honorable Miller:

Alpha Natural Resources is submitting this letter in support of CSX's change to its new Precision Scheduled service model.

Alpha Natural Resources produces 14.0 MM tons annually of high quality thermal and metallurgical coal in Central Appalachia for the domestic and international markets. The only way for Alpha, a strong coal mining company, to succeed is to run a safe, efficient, and profitable operation. We recognize that CSX must do the same. CSX must provide a reliable and efficient transportation product to help Alpha reach competitive domestic and international markets. Alpha Natural Resources will ship approximately 6 Million tons of coal on the CSX system in 2017 and expects to ship in excess of 7 Million tons of coal on the CSX system in 2018; thus CSX is a valuable business partner of Alpha Natural Resources.

During CSX's initial implementation of its new service model, we experienced some service disruptions which impacted our ability to ship reliable and effectively. However, we've seen improved service over the last 6 weeks and are pleased with the progress. As of September 26th, CSX has performed very well during the month by showing responsiveness with car supply and executing with on-time performance. We look forward to the continuation of CSX's good efforts and communications.



Alpha Natural Resources

As a result, we fully support CSX's efforts to improve service under its new service model and look forward to CSX meeting our needs for both our domestic and international customers.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David Stetson
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Alpha Natural Resources