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February 11, 2019

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
February 11, 2019
Part of
Public Record

Re: **Docket No. FD 36220, CSX Transportation, Inc.–Lease–Western and Atlantic Railroad**

Dear Ms. Brown:

By Application filed on October 22, 2018, CSX Transportation, Inc. (“CSXT”) sought approval of an application to lease a 137.33-mile railroad line from the Western and Atlantic Railroad (“W&A”) between Central Avenue in the City of Atlanta, GA, milepost 0, and Union Station in the City of Chattanooga, TN, milepost 137.28 (the “Line”), in order to continue operations that CSXT and its predecessors have conducted over the Line since 1890. A letter in support of the Application was filed by the State of Georgia, acting by and through the State Properties Commission, as the owner of the W&A.

The Surface Transportation Board (the “Board”) accepted the application in a decision served on November 21, 2018 that also established a procedural schedule. No notices of intent to participate in the proceeding and no discovery requests were filed on December 5, 2018 as required by the schedule. Due to the partial Federal Government shutdown that began on December 22, 2018, the period for the submission of comments was tolled until February 4, 2019.¹

No comments were filed with the Board during the shutdown and none were filed by the February 4, 2019 deadline. Since the record is complete, CSXT respectfully requests the Board to close the record on the transportation merits as of February 5, 2019, and proceed to serve a final decision on the merits by March 22, 2019.

¹ *Public Advisory in the Event of Partial Federal Government Shutdown*, Press Release 18-10 (December 21, 2018) and *Filings Submitted or Due to be Submitted During the Partial Federal Government Shutdown*, Docket No. EP 751 (served January 28, 2019).

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This letter is being efiled. Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Louis E. Gitomer

Louis E. Gitomer
Attorney for CSX Transportation, Inc.

Cc: Steven L. Stancil