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North Carolina General Assembly
Senate Chamber
State Legislative Building
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
December 13, 2016
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Public Record

November 23, 2016

Re: Docket Ex Parte No. 711 (Sub-No. 1)

Daniel R. Elliott III
Chairman
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Deb Miller
Vice Chairman
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Ann D. Begeman
Board Member
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Miller, and Member Begeman:

As Chairs of the North Carolina Senate Committees on Transportation and Transportation Appropriations we are concerned by the aggressive new freight rail regulations pending before the Surface Transportation Board.

We, along with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, have closely studied the impact of freight rail on our state. We have found freight rail is fundamental to the growth of our state's economy, the sustainability of our transportation system, and the quality of life for our citizens. To meet these needs we are committed to investing significant state resources in freight rail and expect the railroad industry to continue doing the same.

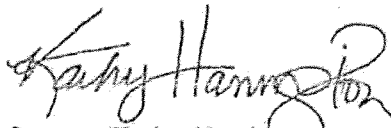
STB regulations that would unnecessarily impede the ability of railroads to maintain current service levels, deliver goods in an efficient manner, and make critical private investments in track, equipment, and maintenance undercut the economic growth of our state and region. The



STB Reauthorization Act of 2015 did not call for adoption of the freight rail regulations under consideration and Congress has rejected similar proposals.

Thank you for your service on the STB. We urge you to consider the unintended consequences of the regulations pending before you and reject their adoption.

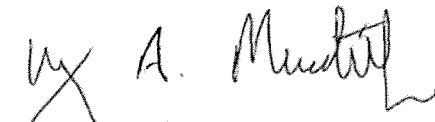
Sincerely,



Senator Kathy Harrington



Senator Bill Rabon



Senator Wesley Meredith



Senator Warren Daniel