



October 23, 2019

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

Home of:

North Country
Small Business
Council

Adirondack Coast
Visitors Bureau

North Country
Industrial Council

Québec-New York
Corridor Coalition

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North American
Center of Excellence
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Re: Bessemer & Lake Erie R.R. -- Acquisition and Operation -- Certain Rail Lines of
CSX Transportation, Inc. of Onondaga, Oswego, Jefferson, Saint Lawrence,
and Franklin Counties, New York (STB Docket No. FD 36347)

Dear Ms. Brown:

The North Country Chamber of Commerce is the largest business and economic development organization in northern New York, linking more than 4,200 employers across multiple counties. We play a key strategic role in our region in support of all matters related to transportation services and infrastructure as well as the strategic positives of cross border commerce between the U.S. and neighboring Canada.

With the foregoing in mind, we enthusiastically support the Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad Company's (B&LE) request to the Surface Transportation Board for authority to acquire and to operate the portion of the Massena Lines in the United States.

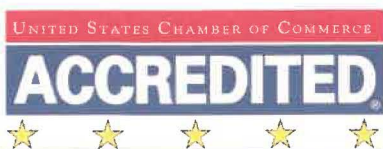
1. Stakeholder's Interest in Proceeding:
 - a) The North Country Chamber of Commerce is a leading representative of business in the affected region and a leading entity in supporting and facilitating positive developments for the region related to transportation and to cross border economic connections.
 - b) Local businesses and economic development opportunities rely on the Massena Lines as well as CN/CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSX) interline service for access to and from crucial markets.
2. Reasons for Support:
 - a) B&LE's proposed acquisition raises no competitive issues while preserving existing competitiveness, supporting local customers now on that route and envisioned growth opportunities related to rail.
 - b) With this acquisition, CN and CSX will be able to maintain an efficient direct interchange for traffic moving over the Massena Lines route.
 - c) The transaction involves an end to end acquisition that will see the relocation of the CN/CSX interchange from Quebec to New York State.
 - d) B&LE are already demonstrating a strong commitment to communication and collaboration with local government and business interests in the affected region, and we are enthusiastic at what we fully anticipate will be future opportunities for business growth.

The North Country Chamber of Commerce regards this proposed acquisition as entirely positive and constructive, and we encourage approval at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

Garry Douglas
President and CEO

Cc: Parties of Record



A Strong Partner for Strong Business in the North Country

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