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1600 E. President St. Ext. P.O. Box 546
Savannah, GA 31402
T 912 232-1101
F 912 232-1103

www.sschemical.com

Honorable Vernon Williams
Secretary, Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Ref: STB Docket #34662

Dear Judge Williams:

The City Council of the District of Columbia has passed an ordinance entitled the "Terrorism Prevention in Hazardous Materials Transportation Emergency Act of 2005" ("the DC Ordinance"). The DC Ordinance would make it illegal to transport certain hazardous commodities through what it terms the "Capitol Exclusion Zone" without obtaining a permit from the District of Columbia Department of Transportation. While the ordinance has not yet become effective, the Mayor of the District of Columbia has indicated that he intends to sign the DC Ordinance into law in the immediate future.

As a manufacturer of freight sensitive commodity chemicals, who relies upon cost effective, reliable service from the CSXT, we would like to offer support for the CSXT petition asking for the Board to declare that the DC Ordinance is preempted by 49 U.S.C. 10501(b) and that, subject to compliance with applicable federal safety and hazardous materials transportation statutes and regulations, continue to allow CSXT to route traffic along the routes to which the Ordinance would apply and prevent disruption of rail service that would likely result from enforcement of the Ordinance.

Our Company, as are many companies, is totally dependent upon timely and competitive rail delivery of goods throughout the eastern seaboard. Alternate modes of transportation are not feasible or available. The safe delivery of goods is not only of paramount importance to the shipper, but is also adequately legislated through existing statutes and regulations. Delays in routing of goods to the customer, or increased costs associated with delivery would have far reaching implications for the manufacturers, customers, and the economy.

We would like to voice strong support for the CSXT petition asking the Board to rule that the Ordinance is preempted by federal law.

Yours truly,

Key D. Compton
President
Southern States Chemical, Inc.