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The Honorable Patrick Fuchs
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: FD No. 36447, Lake Providence Port Commission – Feeder Line Application – Line of Delta Southern Railroad Located in East Carroll and Madison Parishes, Louisiana

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

We write to express our strong interest in the timely consideration of the Feeder Line Application filed by the Lake Providence Port Commission (LPPC), which has now been pending before the Board for nearly five years.

This rail corridor serves a critical function in supporting freight transportation and economic revitalization efforts in northeast Louisiana and southern Arkansas – regions that continue to face significant infrastructure challenges. The line's restoration, which has received both state and federal support, remains a vital step toward unlocking the economic potential of this underserved area. While the State of Louisiana has made significant investments in its portion of the corridor, operational limitations on the segment owned by Delta Southern Railroad continue to inhibit reliable service and economic opportunity.

Importantly, the Louisiana Legislature passed SB 146 (Act 334) in June 2025 – legislation signed into law by Governor Jeff Landry – which clarifies LPPC's statutory authority to acquire and operate rail infrastructure beyond East Carroll Parish. This legislative action appears to address a key concern previously raised by the Board regarding the Commission's legal authority.

Given the extended duration of the application's review and the ongoing infrastructure needs in the region, we respectfully underscore the importance of a timely resolution. Advancing this matter would help provide much-needed certainty to regional stakeholders who have invested considerable time and resources in support of improved rail service.

We appreciate the Board's careful and independent review process and respectfully request that the Application be given appropriate consideration as expeditiously as possible within the Board's procedures.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If we can answer any questions regarding this topic, or otherwise be of help, please contact Kade Smith in Congresswoman Letlow's office at Kade.Smith@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Julia Letlow, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress