

February 13, 2018

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BY E-FILING

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

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Office of Proceedings
February 13, 2018
Part of
Public Record

RE: Ex Parte 745-Status of Agency Library

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am an attorney licensed in the District of Columbia who specializes in representing short line and regional railroads, public agencies with railroad issues, and railroad industry vendors before state and federal agencies including the Surface Transportation Board.

I am writing in support of the stay and rulemaking request submitted by Thomas McFarland, Esq., and Gordon MacDougall, Esq. Although I am totally computer conversant, I urge the Board to maintain its library of files and other documents pertaining to parties and matters within its jurisdiction. Retention of these materials is even more important because recent retirements of longtime Board staff have left younger agency staff without any historical context. I would urge the Board to contact its sister regulatory agencies such as the Federal Communications Commission, Federal Maritime Commission, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to see how they have dealt with the retention of historically significant documents.

Sincerely yours,

John D. Heffner

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