

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 16, 2021

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
April 20, 2021
Part of
Public Record

Ms. Allison Davis
Director, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Gulf Coast Passenger Rail Service/STB Finance Docket No. 36496

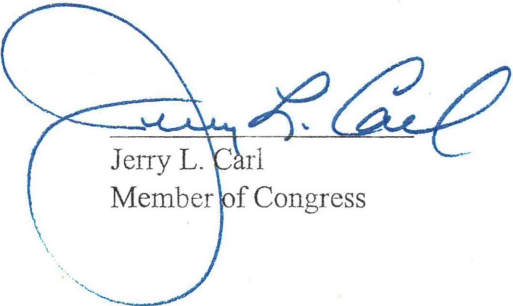
Dear Ms. Davis:

We, Members of the Alabama Congressional delegation, write to express our concern with efforts to reintroduce Amtrak passenger rail service to Mobile and its impact on the Port of Mobile. The Port is an essential gateway to international commerce and critical to the economic well-being of the entire State of Alabama.

Throughout Amtrak's efforts to reintroduce full-time service to Mobile and the Gulf Coast, the Port has voiced concerns about increased rail traffic, and its effect on current freight rail operators CSX and Norfolk Southern. The 3,700-acre complex provides over 154,000 jobs and a \$25 billion impact. Senator Richard Shelby, state and local policymakers, and stakeholders had the foresight to invest early and often to secure the future of the Port. Through these investments, the Port's footprint has greatly increased since passenger rail service last operated in Mobile pre-Hurricane Katrina. It is critical to ensure the renewal of Amtrak service does not hinder the Port of Mobile's existing freight rail operations.

After much discussion, Amtrak, CSX, and Norfolk Southern agreed to complete a comprehensive feasibility analysis to determine passenger rail service's effect on the expanded Port of Mobile, with the study beginning in the Spring of 2020. Disappointingly, in February 2021 and with the study in its final stages, Amtrak abruptly announced it would be ending its involvement, citing frustration with delays in the study. While the study was expected to last only seven months, it is worth noting and is certainly understandable the delay in completion due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unfortunately, a determination must now be made before the Surface Transportation Board. Therefore, we urge the Board to require the completion of the feasibility study prior to the return of Amtrak service to Mobile. All parties have an obligation to complete the study in order to protect the economic interests of Alabama's workers and businesses.



Jerry L. Carl
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



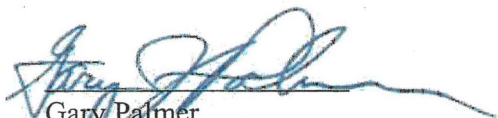
Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



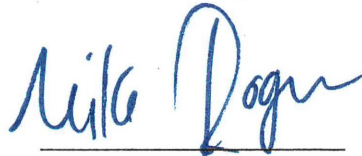
Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Barry Moore
Member of Congress



Gary Palmer
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



Terri Sewell
Member of Congress