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BERGEN ARCHES

PRESERVATION COALITION

P.O Box 17202 Jersey City, NJ 07307

info@bergenarches.com

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ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 29, 2020
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Public Record

July 29th, 2020

Cynthia T Brown

Chief Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings

Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street, SW

Washington, D.C. 20434-0001

Re: Norfolk Southern Railway Company, Abandonment Exception, Hudson and Essex
Counties, NJ AB 290 (Sub no. 408X)

Dear Mrs. Brown,

On behalf of the Bergen Arches Preservation Coalition (BAPC), we are pleased to endorse and support the issuance of an abandonment/railbanking authorization in the proceeding for the entire line at issue to facilitate Norfolk Southern Railway's (NSR's) sale of the line to the Open Space Institute for trail, greenway and compatible public purposes. This line will create an opportunity to connect to the Bergen Arches/Erie Cut and will ultimately align with the main route for the East Coast Greenway – a 3,000-mile walking and biking trail being stitched together from Maine to Florida.

The BAPC's mission is to advocate for an accessible walk and bike path through the Bergen Arches – a mile long underutilized railroad site, originally built to carry four passenger rails from the Jersey City Palisades to the Hudson River Waterfront. Our goals are to educate the community on the benefits of infrastructure reuse and equitable urban planning strategies, and the potential of activating a network of shared-use trails that make up the East Coast Greenway.

Like many other rail sites throughout the region, the NSR rail line has been inactive for years. Conversion of this otherwise underutilized rail line to public use would support the growing regional trail network (through interconnections with proposed trails through the Bergen

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Arches/Erie Cut, the Harsimus Branch, and County Parks), recreational opportunities, and a multitude of other public objectives. This improvement will generate acres of open green space for densely populated communities, and provide safe, and sustainable alternatives to commuting by car.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rahid Cornejo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rahid" being more prominent than the last name "Cornejo".

Rahid Cornejo

Project Director | Bergen Arches Preservation Coalition

cc. Williams, Mullins, Baker & Miller
2401 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20037