



SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP
1501 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005
202 736 8000
202 736 8711 FAX

pmoates@sidley.com
(202) 736-8175

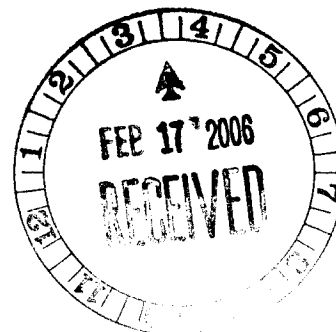
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FOUNDED 1866

February 17, 2006

By Hand

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



Re: Norfolk Southern Railway Company -- Trackage Rights Exemption --
Meridian Speedway LLC -- Between Meridian, MS and Shreveport, LA,
STB Finance Docket No. 34821; Kansas City Southern, The Kansas City - 215826
Southern Railway Company, and Meridian Speedway, LLC -- Exemption
for Transactions Within a Corporate Family, STB Finance Docket No.
34822; The Kansas City Southern Railway Company -- Trackage Rights - 215827
Exemption -- Meridian Speedway, LLC, STB Finance Docket No. 34823 - 215828

Dear Secretary Williams:

On behalf of Norfolk Southern Railway Company ("NSR"), Kansas City Southern ("KCS"), The Kansas City Southern Railway Company ("KCSR"), and Meridian Speedway, LLC ("MSLLC"), Petitioners in the above-referenced proceedings, we write to ask the Board to extend the existing stay of these proceedings for an additional 45-day period, until April 10, 2006 (or such lesser time as it may take to resolve certain matters described below). This modest additional extension should permit the parties to provide the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis ("SEA") with documentation confirming the de minimis environmental impact of these exemption Petitions.

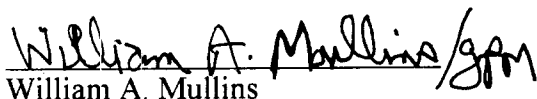
As the Board knows, on January 17, 2006, NSR, KCS, KCSR and MSLLC filed three notices of exemption relating to a proposed joint venture among them involving the Meridian, MS to Shreveport, LA portion of KCSR's "Meridian Speedway" line between Meridian and Dallas, TX. The joint venture will facilitate accelerated capital investments in the line which will in turn result in additional capacity and enhanced operations, benefiting numerous rail customers and especially those moving traffic between the Southwest and the Southeast. Acknowledging the public benefits of the proposed joint venture, to date more than forty (40) rail customers have submitted letters of support for the venture.

With Petitioners' concurrence, the Board by Decision served January 23, 2006, granted a 30 day stay of the effective date of the exemptions. Petitioners now seek a modest extension of that stay to permit them to address certain environmental matters related to their

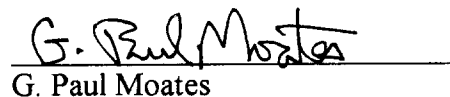
submissions. Specifically, as noted by the Board in its recent publication of one of the exemption Notices associated with this matter, "KCSR and NSR, believing that the transaction will help increase traffic on the line, have contacted the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis concerning any necessary environmental review" (*Kansas City Southern, The Kansas City Southern Railway Company, and Meridian Speedway, LLC - Exemption for Transactions Within a Corporate Family*, Finance Docket No. 34822, Notice served February 16, 2006). Petitioners have in fact consulted with SEA and are in the process of preparing documentation showing that while they anticipate some growth in traffic over the line as investments enhance its capacity and service capabilities over time, the impacts of such growth will be minimal and should not require additional environmental analysis.

Because Petitioners are still in the process of completing the documentation for SEA mentioned above, they believe that a further extension of the stay for up to 45 days should permit those processes to be completed. Accordingly, Petitioners request that the Board extend the existing stay of the effectiveness of the exemption Petitions that are the subjects of these proceedings until April 10, 2006, or such lesser time as it may take to resolve the matters referenced in this letter.

Respectfully submitted,


William A. Mullins

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


G. Paul Moates

Sidley Austin LLP
1501 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

cc: The Honorable W. Douglas Buttrey, Chairman (by hand)
The Honorable Francis P. Mulvey, Vice Chairman (by hand)
David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings (by hand)
Paul A. Cunningham, Esq.