

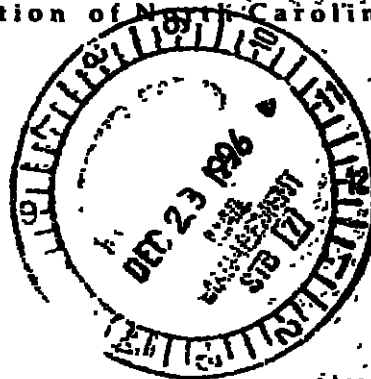


PRESERVATION NORTH CAROLINA*

*The Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc.

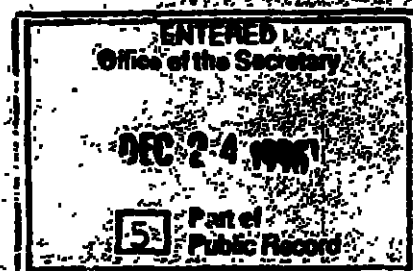
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December 20, 1996



VIA FACSIMILE & U.S. MAIL

Mr. Vernon Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board Office
of Public Assistance
1201 Constitution Ave., N.W., Room 2229
Washington, D.C. 20423



RE: Ninety Day Extension Docket of No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 172X) Norfolk Southern
13 miles of rail line located from O & H Junction to Henderson, North Carolina between
milepost I-1.0 and milepost I-14.0.

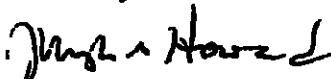
Dear Secretary Williams:

Preservation North Carolina filed a request for a public use condition for an interim trail and a statement of willingness to assume financial responsibility for the above-referenced corridor, which was favorably ruled upon on March 1, 1996. The Surface Transportation Board granted an extension until this December to complete the negotiations between Norfolk Southern and Preservation North Carolina and we would, again, respectfully request a ninety day extension to complete these negotiations.

On September 13, 1996, James R. Paschall, General Attorney for Norfolk Southern, sent a letter to the Surface Transportation Board indicating that a portion of this corridor will be excluded from trail use negotiations. However, Preservation North Carolina and Norfolk Southern are continuing to negotiate a mutually satisfactory agreement to rail bank the remainder of this corridor and we have every reason to believe that an agreement will be reached. We have been negotiating with Steve McCurdy, the North Carolina Real Estate Manager for Norfolk Southern and we do expect to successfully complete an agreement in the near future.

Again, if you would grant a ninety day extension of time, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you and best wishes for a happy new year.

Sincerely,



J. Myrick Howard
Executive Director

cc: Mr. Steve McCurdy, Norfolk Southern
Mr. H.B. Wyche, Jr., Norfolk Southern
Mr. James R. Paschall, Norfolk Southern