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PIONEER LINES, INC.
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February 10, 2022

By E-Filing

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

Re: Gulf Coast Passenger Service Between New Orleans and Mobile
STB Finance Docket No. 36496

Dear Ms. Brown:

Pioneer Lines is a short line railroad holding company with 15 Class III railroads in 12 states, including the Mississippi Central Railroad (MSCI) and the Ripley and New Albany Railroad in northeastern Mississippi. I write to express concerns regarding the potential precedent setting impact on our nation's efficient freight rail network if Amtrak's proposed Gulf Coast passenger service between New Orleans, Louisiana and Mobile, Alabama is allowed to proceed without evaluating impacts freight rail operations, particularly on the ability of short lines to efficiently compete and serve its customers.

Consistent, reliable, and cost-effective Class I rail service is critical to the success of our business and our customers. Setting a precedent that allows for the introduction of services that limit rail capacity without regard to understanding the impacts on freight rail efficiency and the ability to meet the demands of our customers is a significant concern.

Pioneer Lines does not oppose passenger service and expresses no opinion on the merits of the Gulf Coast service. However, it is important that the introduction of this passenger service does not decrease the quality of freight service provided by our Class I partners such as CSXT. It is our understanding that CSXT and Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) have proposed infrastructure projects that would support Amtrak's desired passenger service while protecting the

quality of freight service Pioneer Lines urges the Board to seriously consider the merits of these projects.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Yeros", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Alex Yeros
CEO and President

cc: FD 36496 Service List