



February 16, 2022

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

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Public Record

Re: Application of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation under 49 U.S.C. § 24308(e) – CSX Transportation, Inc., and Norfolk Southern Railway Company, FD 36496

I want to commend the Surface Transportation Board (STB) for recognizing the Alabama State Port Authority (ASPA) as a party to the proceedings and the opportunity to air their concerns about the potential negative impacts to the Port of Mobile. As immediate past Chairman of the Southern Rail Commission (SRC) and current President /CEO of Coastal Alabama Partnership, I support the Alabama State Port Authority and their concerns on how the restoration of passenger rail might impact cargo movement in and around the Port of Mobile.

The Alabama State Port Authority has not had questions addressed regarding the impacts on freight carriers or intermodal rail service. It is unknown how these impacts could create delays, inefficiencies, and interruptions to supply chains along with the unknown impacts to other companies and organizations within the Port have also been left unanswered. In addition, my position, along with other Alabama SRC members, is that the proposed passenger rail station should be located at Brookley Field Aerospace Complex. This mirrors the same position as the City of Mobile. The location at Brookley would lessen the impact that passenger rail might have on Port operations at the busy McDuffie Coal Terminal and Choctaw Yard facilities.

The Port of Mobile is one of Alabama's most significant economic engines, with an estimated \$26.8 billion in economic value and supporting 161,130 jobs. Further research and due diligence into the potential impacts would provide ASPA with needed information to determine passenger rail's current and future effects on Port operations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wiley C. Blankenship'.

Wiley C. Blankenship
President/CEO
Coastal Alabama Partnership

cc: All parties of record