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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:

DAK Americas LLC is located in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi and relies on the freight rail service provided by CSX Transportation, Inc. I write on behalf of DAK Americas LLC to express concerns regarding the impact of the freight rail service of Amtrak's proposed Gulf Coast passenger service between New Orleans, Louisiana and Mobile, Alabama.

DAK Americas LLC produces PET Resin and relies on CSXT to transport raw materials to our facility and finished products to our customers. Freight rail service is critical to the success of our business and CSXT provides us access to two major port terminals in New Orleans and Mobile through which we can access greater domestic and international markets.

CSXT and Norfolk Southern Railway Company have submitted evidence, including a Rail Traffic Controller study, that shows the introduction of Gulf Coast passenger service between New Orleans and Mobile will cause significant harm to freight service. This harm will manifest itself through decreased freight train speeds and delay as well as extreme operational variability. CSXT's local trains, the very trains that directly serve our facility, will be hit the hardest. DAK Americas LLC is deeply concerned about our ability to meet the demands of our customers and maintain our facility operating if this harm to CSXT's freight rail service materializes.

DAK Americas LLC does not oppose Gulf Coast passenger service and expresses no opinion on the merits of that service. However, it is important that the introduction of this passenger service does not decrease the quality of freight service provided by CSXT. It is our understanding that CSXT and NSR have proposed infrastructure projects that would support Amtrak's desired passenger service while protecting the quality of freight service that DAK Americas LLC relies on. DAK Americas LLC urges the Board to seriously consider the merits of these projects.

The Board has an obligation to protect the interests of all parties that rely on the national rail network, not just those of passenger rail. DAK Americas LLC requests that the Board require Amtrak to properly fund and facilitate the construction of infrastructure projects so as to avoid any harm to freight rail service.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Ben Ronk
DAK Americas LLC
Logistics Manager


Alejandro Gutierrez
DAK Americas LLC
VP, Procurement and Logistics

cc: FD 36496 Service List