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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:

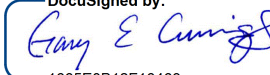
BlueLinx Corporation is located in Marietta, GA, and relies on the freight rail service provided by CSX Transportation, Inc. I write on behalf of BlueLinx to express concerns regarding the impact on that freight rail service of Amtrak's proposed Gulf Coast passenger service between New Orleans, Louisiana and Mobile, Alabama.

BlueLinx is a wholesale distributor of building products 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 than would otherwise be available. The quality of service CSXT provides makes freight rail the most efficient transportation alternative to maintain and grow our business.

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. BlueLinx is deeply concerned about our ability to meet the demands of our customers and remain profitable if this harm to CSXT's freight rail service materializes.

BlueLinx 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 BlueLinx relies on. BlueLinx urges the Board to seriously consider the merits of these projects.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

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Gary E. Cummings

Vice President

BlueLinx Corporation

cc: FD 36496 Service List

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