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September 24, 2018

Victoria Rutson
Director, Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Consolidated Rail Corporation—Abandonment
Exemption—In Hudson County, NJ, STB Docket
No. AB 167 (1189X)

Dear Ms. Rutson:

For several months, the City of Jersey City, the Pennsylvania Railroad Harsimus Stem Embankment Preservation Coalition, and the Rails to Trails Conservancy (the "City Parties") have been in negotiations with Conrail, the LLCs and Jersey City Embankment Associates LLC, an affiliate of the Albanese Development Corporation, which is a reputable developer and the contract vendee from the LLCs for a portion of the property known as the Embankment, about settling the various disputes that have arisen in connection with the abandonment of the Harsimus Branch in a way that will satisfy reasonable historic preservation objectives, reasonable public interest and reasonable property development objectives. Those negotiations have progressed to the point that the parties anticipate exchanging a draft omnibus settlement agreement and a draft Section 106 MOA by October 15, followed by the exchange of comments on those drafts and a meeting of the parties in Jersey City on November 16, with the purpose of ironing out any remaining differences. We are optimistic that this process will not only settle the parties' disputes but also result in a Section 106 MOA that will be acceptable to the STB, the New Jersey SHPO, and the ACHP.

I have been authorized to file this letter on behalf of the negotiating parties.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. Jenkins III

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Counsel for Consolidated Rail Corporation

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