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August 29, 2016

Chairman Daniel R. Elliot III
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
August 29, 2016
Part of
Public Record

RE: BOSTON SURFACE RAILROAD COMPANY, INC. - PETITION FOR EXEMPTION -
FROM 49 U.S.C. SUBTITLE IV - Docket Number FD_36043

Dear Chairman Elliot:

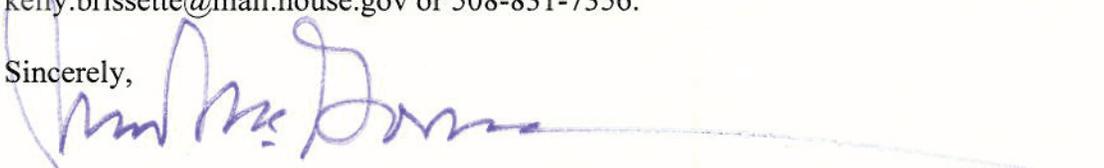
I am writing in support of the Boston Surface Railroad Company's ("BSRC") petition for exemption currently pending before the Surface Transportation Board (Docket Number FD_36043).

BSRC is seeking to initiate privately-operated intercity passenger rail service between Worcester, MA, to Providence, RI, with a stop in Woonsocket, RI. Currently, my constituents that travel by automobile to Providence face significant congestion and inconsistent trip duration. The only alternative mode of transportation is a bus line with a very limited schedule. Furthermore, passengers that wish to connect to the Amtrak Interstate Rail System to travel south can only do so through Boston. Although New England is generally well-served by the current rail system, the Worcester to Providence corridor is a gap that affects two of the region's major metropolitan areas.

In addition to passenger convenience, this rail service will provide opportunities for economic growth and job creation. Also, by helping to alleviate congestion, it will provide significant environmental benefits for the region. This project should therefore be considered an important component of New England's transportation future.

I respectfully ask that you give their petition your full and fair consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Brissette of my Worcester district office at kelly.brissette@mail.house.gov or 508-831-7356.

Sincerely,


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

cc: Darwin Cusack / Party of Record, Boston Surface Railroad Company
dcusack@bsrc.com