

Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Railroad Authority
(formerly Monroe County Railroad Authority and Lackawanna County Railroad Authority)

Lawrence C. Malski, Esq.
President

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January 12, 2015

Cynthia T. Brown, Chief
Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: **Norfolk Southern Railway Company – Acquisition and Operation – Certain Rail Lines of the Delaware and Hudson Railway Company, Inc., STB Docket No. FD 35873**

Dear Ms. Brown:

The Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Railroad Authority is the owner of an approximately 100-mile regional rail system in Northeastern Pennsylvania which provides rail service through its designated common carrier rail operator, the Delaware-Lackawanna Railroad (“DL”). From our first acquisition of lines that were being abandoned by private rail carriers in the 1980’s our carloadings have risen from 393 to over 8,000 revenue carloads in 2014.

Our designated rail operator, the DL, has direct interchange connections with Delaware & Hudson Railway Company, Inc. (“D&H”) at Taylor, PA and with Norfolk Southern Railway Company (“NS”) at Slateford, PA thereby providing our shippers and receivers with rail freight service options.

We have fostered a very good working relationship with the NS during our thirty years of preserving rail service for Northeastern Pennsylvania industries and we look forward to a continuation of the close working relationship to the mutual benefits of all parties.

By way of this letter filing, Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Railroad Authority expresses its strong support for the NS acquisition of the south end of the D&H, which transaction is the subject of the above-referenced proceeding. We encourage the Board to act expeditiously on the subject application and approve the underlying line sale transaction.

We believe this transaction, as structured, will benefit the entire region as a result of the investments and operating acumen that the NS will bring to this acquired property which will produce long term benefits to the rail shipping public.

Sincerely,

Lawrence C. Malski

Lawrence C. Malski, President

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