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**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

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January 21, 2015
Part of
Public Record

STB Finance Docket No. FD 35873

**NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY-- ACQUISITION AND OPERATION--
CERTAIN RAIL LINES OF THE DELAWARE AND HUDSON RAILWAY COMPANY,
INC.**

**STATEMENT OF SUPPORT OF THE
U.S. CLAY PRODUCERS TRAFFIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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Dated: January 21, 2015

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**STATEMENT OF SUPPORT OF THE
U.S. CLAY PRODUCERS TRAFFIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

The U.S. Clay Producers Traffic Association, Inc. ("Clay Producers") consists of members who mine, refine and ship a number of regulated, mineral commodities from points in Mid-Georgia and the Southeastern United States. As regards to this transaction, historically, Clay Producers have originated multi-car shipments of kaolin clay slurry with the Sandersville Railroad and Norfolk Southern ("NS") destined for various paper mills in the Maine and the Northeast. Since freight charges and service are significant factors in the pricing and marketing of these highly competitive, moderate value (relative to volume) products, efficient and cost effective service is a vital concern to the industry. The benefits which NS defines as resulting from this action should provide for an equally beneficial pass through result to the clay shipper.

Clay Producers strongly support this transaction. Since traffic of Clay Producers over the subject lines is thru traffic, the acquisition would not create competitive harm.

Because NS presently operates over the D&H Lines, the transaction is not expected to cause service disruptions. NS's investment and commitment to rail service in the Northeast is a positive move. Its direct ownership of the lines will likely result in improved maintenance, operational efficiencies, simplified routing, faster transit times and more reliable service. NS's greater involvement and investment can also be expected to enhance the existing rail infrastructure on the lines involved.

For the foregoing reasons, Clay Producers respectfully urge the Board to approve the transaction.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Vincent P. Szeligo

Vincent P. Szeligo, Esq.

Dated: January 21, 2015

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 21th day of January, 2015, all Parties of Record, as now listed on the Board's service list for this proceeding, have been served by first class mail with copies of this and all prior filings in this proceeding submitted on behalf of the U.S. Clay Producers Traffic Association, Inc.

/s/ Vincent P. Szeligo
Vincent P. Szeligo