



VIRGINIA'S GATEWAY REGION
Economic Development Organization

229164

April 1, 2011

The Honorable Daniel R. Elliot, III
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Suite 1220
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Dear Chairman Elliot:

As the regional economic development organization for South Central Virginia, serving the cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell and Petersburg and the counties of Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Prince George, Surry and Sussex, the board of directors and executive staff of Virginia's Gateway Region EDO offers full support for a strong freight railroad network, not only in our state/region, but across the nation.

www.gatewayregion.com

the counties of
Chesterfield
Dinwiddie
Prince George
Surry
Sussex

As America finally begins to pull itself out of the Great Recession, we do not need to reverse progress by damaging the ability of the rail industry to reinvest and continue to provide strong service.

the cities of
Colonial Heights
Hopewell
Petersburg

We at Virginia's Gateway Region EDO support a healthy freight rail network that encourages reinvestment by the rail industry. The freight rail network supports job growth and continued economic recovery which will only serve to improve both the business climate and the quality of life in our entire region and will continue to drive economic development forward in South Central Virginia. A thriving rail network will spur investment activity and increase the level of ease of doing business within our region which will lead to increased capital investment and additional jobs for the Commonwealth of Virginia as well as across the nation.

We oppose any policy or regulatory changes that would hinder the freight railroads' ability to continue investing billions of dollars annually in private capital to grow and modernize the nation's rail infrastructure. We respectfully request that no regulatory or policy changes be pursued at this time by the STB. We need to maintain the strong and well-balanced regulatory regime we have in place today.

Thank you for our consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

C. Renee Chapline
Executive Director

Cc: Jeffrey Savage, Norfolk Southern Corporation