

SANDERSVILLE RAILROAD COMPANY

POST OFFICE BOX 269
SANDERSVILLE, GEORGIA 31082

237413

December 16, 2014

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
January 8, 2015
Part of
Public Record

OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN
2014 DEC 23 PM 5:25

Chairman Dan Elliott
Vice Chairman Deb Miller
Commissioner Ann Begeman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Suite 1220
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Finance Docket No.35873
Norfolk Southern Railway Company – Acquisition and Operation – Certain Rail Lines of
The Delaware and Hudson Railway

Dear Board Members:

The Sandersville Railroad submits this letter in strong support of the application filed on November 17, 2014, by Norfolk Southern Railway Company (“NS”) to acquire and operate certain rail lines of The Delaware and Hudson Railway (“D&H”).

The Sandersville Railroad is an independent shortline railroad that began operation in 1893. We serve several kaolin clay shippers, a Weyerhaeuser wood chip mill, and several smaller shipper and receivers in Middle Georgia. We have 31 employees, ten miles of mainline, and own 150 covered hoppers, 70 wood chip cars, and five locomotives.

The Sandersville Railroad and its shippers depend on reliable and sustainable service over the D&H South Lines. Our kaolin shippers originate several hundred carloads of traffic destined for paper mills in Maine and eastern Canada. We have lost a substantial amount of volume in this corridor over the years, and this acquisition gives us new hope that we can regain volume due to some of the following factors:

- It furthers our direct access to the rail network of Norfolk Southern.
- The acquisition will improve the reliability and sustainability of service on the D&H South Lines by creating operating efficiencies, which will speed transit times for our shippers.
- We expect minimal disruptions to current service levels since Norfolk Southern already operates daily over the lines.
- The deal produces no competitive harms.

For the reasons listed above, the Sandersville Railroad strongly supports the application of Norfolk Southern before the STB to acquire and operate certain rail lines of D&H. We respectfully request your expedited review and approval of this minor transaction.

Sincerely,



Ben J. Tarbutton III
Assistant Vice President
Sandersville Railroad

Cc: Chip Meador – Norfolk Southern
Chris Spiceland – Norfolk Southern