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**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
DEC 29 2011
Part of
Public Record

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)
Amtrak Petition For)
Determination Of PRIIA)
Section 209 Cost Methodology)
)
_____)

STB Finance Docket No. 35571

EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION REQUESTED

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S
MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE REPLY**

The United States Department of Transportation (Department) hereby seeks an extension until January 23, 2012, to file any Reply in this proceeding. In support of this Motion, the Department, through undersigned counsel, hereby states as follows:

1. By its decision of December 15, 2011, the Surface Transportation Board (Board) directed Amtrak to serve its petition and supplements in this proceeding on the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) and the District of Columbia by December 20, 2011. The Board further ordered that those parties would have twenty (20) days from the date of service to Reply, if they so chose.
2. Amtrak served its petition and supplements upon the Secretary and has filed a Certification of Compliance with the Board.
3. By the Department's calculation, its Reply in this proceeding would be due on January 9, 2012, absent an extension.

4. There is good cause for the Board to grant an extension of fourteen (14) additional days for the Department to file any Reply. The Department needs additional time in which to review Amtrak's submission, to coordinate efforts among appropriate offices and personnel at the Department, and to determine whether and how it will Reply in this proceeding. Such an extension is also reasonable and appropriate in light of scheduling challenges over the holiday season.
5. Undersigned counsel for the Department has notified Neil K. Gilman, counsel for Amtrak, of the Department's intent to seek an extension from the Board. Mr. Gilman has stated that Amtrak does not oppose the relief that the Department seeks in this Motion.

Wherefore, the United States Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Board grant its Motion to extend the deadline for its Reply in this proceeding until January 23, 2012.

December 29, 2011

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher S. Perry

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Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on this 29th day of December, 2011, I caused the foregoing document to be served by first class mail, postage prepaid, upon the following:

Neil K. Gilman
Hunton & Williams LLP
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Counsel for Amtrak

Mayor Vincent C. Gray
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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher S. Perry". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Christopher S. Perry