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April 7, 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 you begin your review of freight rail industry competitive policies, we write to express the Jacksonville Port Authority's support for a strong freight railroad network, not only in Florida, but across the nation.

Once the Panama Canal is widened in 2014, East Coast Port Authorities anticipate significant increases in container volumes and will need a strong rail network to ensure we take full advantage of that opportunity. Ports and railroads are working closely together to identify infrastructure investments that must be made to support this growing demand for the movement of goods to markets across America's heartland.

Finally, as America pulls itself out of one of the worst recessions in history, we also want to ensure that freight railroads have the ability to reinvest and continue to provide strong service to their customers. We encourage you to pursue public policies that encourage reinvestment by the rail industry that support job growth and continued economic recovery

Sincerely,

A. Paul Anderson
Chief Executive Officer
(904) 357-3035