

JIMMY PARNELL  
PRESIDENT

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Office of Proceedings  
April 5, 2021  
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Public Record

April 2, 2021

Ms. Allison Davis  
Director, Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street SW  
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket FD\_36496 ID 301767 - National Railroad Passenger Corp Under 49 U.S.C. Section 24308(e) - CSX Transportation, Inc., and Norfolk Southern Corporation.

Dear Ms. Davis:

The Alabama Farmers Federation is Alabama's largest farm organization and represents nearly 350,000 member families. We are writing to urge the Surface Transportation Board to deny Amtrak an Order to restore passenger service between Mobile, Alabama and New Orleans, Louisiana, and compel Amtrak to complete its Rail Traffic Control Study with supplemental engineering and cost report.

Many of our farmers and related agribusiness rely on the CSX railroad to carry agricultural products to/from the public terminals at the Port of Mobile, or to interchange with other railroads to access our U.S. based customers. In some cases, our freight continues through the port to reach our customers positioned along the CSX U.S. Gulf coast east/west mainline. Our industry has applauded and supported public/ private investments at the port's public terminals with the single objective to generate capacity, attract carrier services and to grow our markets. Investments at the Port of Mobile have delivered new customers, retained, or expanded our businesses, and attracted new industry, making Alabama's port one of the fastest growing ports in the nation. In turn, our farmers have been able to better compete globally and create American jobs.

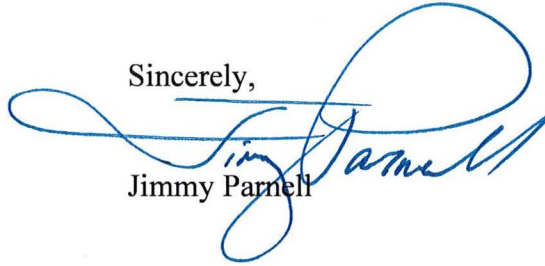
Farmers in Alabama have deep reservations over Amtrak initiating new passenger rail service at Mobile without the proper study or investment to ensure freight and container intermodal rail service is not degraded, and to ensure there is sufficient capacity for continued freight growth. Moreover, we are concerned about resulting congestion or delay impacts to supply chains and transportation rates should passenger rail enter the corridor without proper assessment. In response to those concerns, we understand Amtrak initiated a freight modeling study and a supplemental engineering and cost assessment in early 2020. As the study was nearing completion in late January 2021, we learned that Amtrak cancelled the study. It is also our understanding the host railroads, the Alabama State Port Authority, the Alabama delegation to the Southern Rail Commission, and our elected officials asked Amtrak to complete the study to support informed decisions regarding the utilization of the CSX Gulf Coast rail corridor. We are deeply concerned that Amtrak seeks an injunction from the Surface Transportation Board to bypass this important step in assessing operational service and capacity in this important freight corridor.



The Alabama Farmers Federation respectfully asks the Board to require Amtrak complete their modeling study and supplemental rail infrastructure and cost assessments to identify the improvements necessary to efficiently and cost competitively support both freight rail and passenger services at Mobile, Alabama.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Parnell

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jimmy Parnell", is written over the printed name. The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

C: Parties of Record