



Chairman Daniel R. Elliott
Vice Chairman Deb Miller
Member Ann D. Begeman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington DC 20423-000

Honorable Members,

The Heart of Georgia Railroad (HOG) is a 200 mile short line railroad operating in Southwest Georgia, and serves 25 customers ranging from very small to fairly large entities. These businesses provide over 1000 direct jobs in one of the most economically challenged areas of our state.

The service provided by HOG is extremely important to the viability of these industries, and a large number would not exist without the rail service we provide.

HOG interchanges with both Norfolk Southern and CSX Transportation, and has had great success over the last 16 years in utilizing our relationships with those two Class 1 Carriers to provide the level of transportation service our customers need. Without a strong relationship between HOG and our interchange partners, we would not be able to fulfill our commitment to our shippers and maintain the viability of their businesses.

I am writing to express my concern of the potential CP – NS merger, as I do not see any potential benefit to NS short line interchange partners and the customers they serve. NS has been a great service provider since HOG began its operations, and I certainly do not feel we can undergo a transition that might hinder the known quantity we now have in NS.

Relationships are built on long term commitment and an ongoing effort to understand the goals and needs of a partner. We now have that with NS and they continue to listen to our concerns and work to help us in providing top notch customer service.

Although we have no direct dealings with CP, from all of my understanding of their management strategy I do not believe they are the best alternative as our interchange partner.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brad Lafevers – CEO