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Capital Results

November 19, 2014

The Honorable Joseph C. Szabo
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Federally supported Southeast Corridor Regional Planning Project

Dear Administrator Szabo:

I am writing this letter in support of the efforts of the Department of Transportation's in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida to advance a Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) led Regional Rail Planning Project.

Virginians for High Speed Rail is a 501 (C) (3) not-for-profit coalition of citizens, businesses, localities, community organizations, and economic development agencies that educate and advocate for the expansion of fast, frequent, and reliable rail service connecting our communities to destinations along the Southeast and Northeast Corridors. VHSR was founded in 1994 as a partnership between the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce and the Future of Hampton Roads.

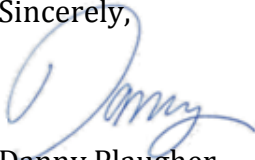
When you spoke at our June 20th, 2014 Annual Meeting in Richmond, Virginia you stated *"...And for the Southeast to succeed, the states must be unified and coordinated in their efforts. Your vision must extend from Washington, DC, all the way to Atlanta...By the year 2050, 100 million more people will need to use our surface transportation system. This equals the combined population of our four most populous states: California, Texas, New York, and Florida. And much of this growth will occur in the Southeast....Another recent study – this one by the United States Conference of Mayors – looked at metro areas in the year 2042. And one of the study's chief findings was that metropolitan areas are going to grow much faster in the South than in any other part of the country: absorbing more than 50 percent of the population growth that occurs in the nation's major metro areas during this period. So the Southeast is growing, changing – it's booming."*

The states in the Southeast have come together to help progress this coordinated vision, but they require the help of the FRA. We support and congratulate the

leadership of the Southeast states, railroads, and other stakeholders advancing this initiative, and we look forward to participating in the creation of a long-term vision for intercity passenger rail along the Southeast Corridor.

Please let me know if we can be of any assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Danny", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Danny Plaugher
Executive Director

CC: The Honorable Anthony Foxx, United States Secretary of Transportation
The Honorable Aubrey Layne, Virginia Secretary of Transportation
The Honorable Anthony Tata, North Carolina Secretary of Transportation
The Honorable Jennifer Mitchell, Director of the VA Department of Rail & Public Transportation
The Honorable Paul Worley, Director of North Carolina's Department of Transportation Rail Division