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February 23, 2023

306202

<u>VIA E-FILING</u> The Honorable Cynthia T. Brown Chief, Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings Surface Transportation Board 395 E Street, SW Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED Office of Proceedings February 23, 2023 Part of Public Record

Re: Joint Petition for Rulemaking to Establish a Voluntary Arbitration Program for Small Rate Disputes STB Docket No. EP 765

Dear Ms. Brown:

The Kansas City Southern Railway Company (KCSR) had hoped to be able today to opt into a Small Rate Case Arbitration Program established by the Board in the above-captioned proceeding. However, as a result of other carriers' announced choice not to opt into the program while important issues are under review, and because of the Board's requirement that all Class 1 carriers opt in by February 23, there is, by terms of the Board's order, no program for KCSR to opt into. See Joint Petition for Rulemaking to Establish a Voluntary Arbitration Program For Small Rate Disputes, Docket No. EP 765 (served Dec. 19, 2022), slip op. at 7 ("If not all Class I carriers participate, the Board will not issue the notice commencing the new arbitration program, resulting in the program being inoperable,..."). Accordingly, KCSR is prevented by the Board's order from opting into an arbitration program that KCSR joined others in advocating to the Board.

KCSR hopes that, upon resolution of the issues recited in the pending petitions for reconsideration of the Board's December 19 decision, there will be an opportunity for individual Class I carriers to opt into a Small Rate Case Arbitration Program, a program that the Board has said is preferrable to formal adjudication (such as Final Offer Rate Review).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by: David Reeves FA75DC6C82BE418... David C. Reeves

cc: Parties of Record