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TIMBER HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 6399, Eureka, California 95502

A Public Benefit 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Corporation

www.timberheritage.org

May 27, 2022

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Cynthia T. Brown
Chief of the Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington D.C., 20423-0001

Re: Docket No. AB 1305 North Coast Railroad Authority—
Abandonment Exemption—in Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt
Counties, Cal.

Dear Ms. Brown:

The Timber Heritage Association, an IRS 501(c)3 nonprofit in Humboldt County, California, hereby gives notice of an attached Request for Interim Trail use and Railbanking for a portion of the rail line in question.

Per the STB filing fees notices the \$350.00 filing fee was paid on 05/30/2022 at 07:56:30 PM EDT, agency #76245967520.

If you or the parties to the proceeding have any questions about this Request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ Pete Johnston

Pete Johnston
President
Timber Heritage Association
Tax ID: 94-2388203

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BEFORE THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DOCKET No. AB 1305 X

North Coast Railroad Authority – Abandonment Exemption—in Mendocino, Trinity, and Humboldt Counties, Cal.

TIMBER HERITAGE ASSOCIATION (THA)

REQUEST FOR INTERIM TRAIL USE AND RAILBANKING

In order to establish interim trail use and rail banking under 16 U.S.C. 1247(d) and 49 CFR 1152.29 with respect to the right-of-way owned by the North Coast Railroad Authority (also now known as the Great Redwood Trail Agency) and not currently in common-carrier operation, the Timber Heritage Association is willing to assume full responsibility for: (1) Management of the right-of-way, (2) Any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of the right-of-way, and (3) The payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right of way. The property, known as the northernmost portion of the Northwestern Pacific, extends from railroad milepost 282 near Eureka, California to railroad milepost 300.5 near Samoa, California, a distance of 18.5 miles in Humboldt County, California.¹ The right-of-way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in Docket No. STB AB 1305 X. A map of the property depicting the right-of-way is attached.

The Timber Heritage Association (THA), a nonprofit 501c (3) organization acknowledges that use of the right-of-way is subject to sponsor's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service. A copy of this statement is being served on railroad(s) on the same date it is being served on the Board.

THA further adds that the designation and control of this limited northernmost portion of the proposed corridor is to preserve existing rail with trail design efforts and recreational activities. Designation of this portion of the right of way is not in conflict with the larger GRTA trail mission of the entire

corridor, and connects to the existing THA Samoa Shops site at Samoa, California. THA is willing to negotiate with GRTA on any dual access or potential conflicts emerging to preserve corridor usage for both parties. However, THA does seek formal recognition by the STB as a potential bonafide recipient of this portion of the corridor subject to this notice. As THA does wish to preserve the rail assets themselves on this portion through physical railbanking, this notice is not in conflict with any potential OFA activity that may or may not include this limited portion of the corridor.

¹ Milepost markers at approximately 282 to 284.169 refer to the main line trackage through Eureka. MP 284.17 to 292.93 is a portion of the Korblex Branch, connecting with the Samoa Branch from 292.94 to Samoa at 300.5.

