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8 Attorneys for Plaintiffs
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS and
9 AMERICAN SHORT LINE AND REGIONAL
RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
11 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
12

13 ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS and AMERICAN SHORT LINE
14 AND REGIONAL RAILROAD
ASSOCIATION,

15 Plaintiffs,

16 v.

17 LIANE M. RANDOLPH, in her official
capacity as Chair of the California Air
18 Resources Board; JOHN EISENHUNT,
SUSAN SHAHEEN, JOHN R. BALMES,
19 DIANE TAKVORIAN, BILL QUIRK, DEAN
FLOREZ, HECTOR DE LA TORRE,
20 DAVINA HURT, V. MANUAL PEREZ, ERIC
GUERRA, NORA VARGAS, TANIA
21 PACHECO-WERNER, GIDEON KRACOV,
HENRY STERN, and EDUARDO GARCIA,
22 in their official capacities as members of the
California Air Resources Board; STEVEN S.
23 CLIFF, in his official capacity as Executive
Officer of the California Air Resources Board;
24 and ROB BONTA, in his official capacity as
Attorney General of the State of California

25 Defendants.
26

Case No. TBD

COMPLAINT

Date: TBD
Time: TBD
Courtroom: TBD
Judge: Hon.

1 Plaintiffs Association of American Railroads (“AAR”) and American Short Line and
2 Regional Railroad Association (“ASLRRRA”) respectfully state the following claims for
3 declaratory and injunctive relief against Defendants Liane M. Randolph, Chair of the California
4 Air Resources Board (“CARB”); John Eisenhunt, Susan Shaheen, John R. Balmes, Diane
5 Takvorian, Bill Quirk, Dean Florez, Hector De La Torre, Davina Hurt, V. Manual Perez, Eric
6 Guerra, Nora Vargas, Tania Pacheco-Werner, Gideon Kracov, Henry Stern, and Eduardo Garcia,
7 members of CARB; Steven S. Cliff, Executive Officer of CARB; and Rob Bonta, Attorney
8 General of the State of California.

9 **PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

10 1. This is a civil action for declaratory and injunctive relief under the Commerce and
11 Supremacy Clauses of the U.S. Constitution and this Court’s inherent equitable authority to
12 enjoin actions by state officers that are contrary to federal law. This action challenges the “In-
13 Use Locomotive Regulation” (“the Regulation”), adopted by CARB on April 27, 2023. *See*
14 Declaration of Hayes P. Hyde in Support of Plaintiffs’ Complaint, Ex. 10.¹ The Regulation is
15 unlawful and its implementation and enforcement should be enjoined because it (i) is preempted
16 by federal law, including by the Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act, the Clean
17 Air Act, and the Locomotive Inspection Act; and (ii) violates the Dormant Commerce Clause by
18 imposing a clear and substantial burden on interstate transportation. Absent relief from this
19 Court, which has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, Plaintiffs’ members will suffer
20 irreparable harm.

21 2. Rail transportation plays a vital role in the U.S. economy. Freight rail accounts for
22 approximately 40% of long-distance ton-miles—more than any other mode of transportation.²
23 *See* U.S. Freight Railroads, AAR – Congress Fact Sheet (March 23, 2023), *available at*
24 <https://bit.ly/3UT4FF3>. Freight rail’s contribution to the U.S. economy comes not from a series

25 _____
26 ¹ All cited exhibits are attached to the accompanying Declaration of Hayes P. Hyde in Support
of Plaintiffs’ Complaint, filed herewith.

27 ² A ton-mile is defined as one ton of freight shipped one mile. Because it reflects both the
28 volume shipped (tons) and the distance shipped (miles), it provides the “best single measure of
the physical volume of freight transportation services.” *See* Bureau of Transp. Statistics (Sept.
10, 2012), U.S. Dep’t of Transp., *available at* <https://bit.ly/3ozVJII>.

1 of separate state systems, but from a single interconnected system of nearly 140,000 miles of
2 track crisscrossing the country. Railroad operators do not switch locomotives when they cross
3 state borders; rather, they frequently maintain the same locomotives over extensive distances.
4 This means that a locomotive owned by one railroad may be operated by another railroad
5 altogether.

6 3. Despite its significance to the U.S. economy, freight rail accounts for just 1.7% of
7 transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions. *Id.* While already energy efficient, railroads
8 have continued to explore and invest in emissions-reducing initiatives. Based on updated
9 emissions data, California rail yard emissions of diesel particulate matter dropped more than 70%
10 from 2005 to 2017 (in the railyards analyzed), and the railroads are moving aggressively to
11 pursue lower- and zero-emissions locomotive technologies. *See* Ex. 1 at 4. BNSF Railway, for
12 example, has invested heavily in the “next generation” of zero and near-zero emission
13 technologies, including conducting initial testing of this technology. Union Pacific Railroad has
14 similarly initiated efforts to study and implement measures designed to further reduce criteria
15 pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions. For example, Union Pacific systematically renewed its
16 environmental protection infrastructure and positioned itself to achieve sustainability goals
17 consistent with the Paris Climate Agreement. Likewise, both BNSF and Union Pacific have
18 worked continuously to bring more energy-efficient locomotives into their fleets. Similarly,
19 Sierra Northern Railway has been working to upgrade its locomotive fleet to reduce its
20 environmental footprint.

21 4. Plaintiffs AAR and ASLRRRA are non-profit, voluntary associations representing
22 both freight and passenger railroads in California and across North America. Many AAR and
23 ASLRRRA members operate in California. For decades, AAR and ASLRRRA members have
24 worked collaboratively with state and local regulators, including CARB, to meet environmental
25 objectives in a manner that is both practical and effective. But it has long been understood that
26 state and local regulators like CARB lack authority to directly regulate railroad operations and
27 locomotive emissions.
28

1 5. Given the importance of the interstate nature of rail transportation (which operates
2 by linking intrastate and interstate networks), Congress has repeatedly directed that railroads are
3 to be regulated solely at the federal level. Thus, under the Interstate Commerce Commission
4 Termination Act (“the ICCTA”), 49 U.S.C. § 10101, *et seq.*, state and local regulators are
5 categorically precluded from enacting rules that have the effect of managing or governing rail
6 transportation; they are limited to enacting generally applicable laws that do not single out
7 railroads but have at most a remote or incidental effect on rail transportation, without overly
8 burdening railroad operations. The Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7401, *et seq.*, likewise provides
9 exclusive authority to the federal government to set emission standards for new locomotives,
10 expressly precluding state and local regulators from adopting or attempting to enforce such
11 standards on their own. And the Locomotive Inspection Act, 49 U.S.C. § 20701, *et seq.*, reserves
12 the field of regulating locomotive equipment to the federal government.

13 6. Until April 2023, CARB had never issued rules directly regulating aspects of
14 railroad operations or locomotive emissions. Indeed, CARB specifically acknowledged in 2005
15 that state regulations “designed to reduce emissions from railroad locomotives” or “affect how the
16 railroads are permitted to use and operate [their] locomotives” were likely preempted. Ex. 4 at
17 16. Subsequent events confirmed the agency’s legal analysis, as the Ninth Circuit held
18 regulations passed by a different California regulator imposing reporting obligations on railroads
19 and restricting the idling time of locomotives were preempted. *See Ass’n of Am. R.R. v. S. Coast*
20 *Air Quality Mgmt. Dist.*, 622 F.3d 1094, 1098 (9th Cir. 2010).

21 7. CARB has now chosen to target railroads and locomotive emissions in a
22 regulation. Specifically, CARB seeks to “achieve emission reductions from Locomotives
23 Operating in California.” Ex. 8 at 1. The In-Use Locomotive Regulation would manage railroad
24 operations in several respects. The Regulation’s “Spending Account” provision effectively
25 charges railroads for the privilege of operating in the State, compelling operators to set aside
26 *billions* of dollars according to a formula based on locomotive emissions, and then prescribing the
27 locomotives and related infrastructure the railroads may buy with their own money. The
28 Regulation’s “In-Use Operational Requirements” ban federally approved locomotives from

1 continuing to operate in California based on CARB’s own assessment of a locomotive’s “useful
2 life,” which directly conflicts with federal law. The Regulation also seeks to regulate train idling
3 and imposes onerous record-keeping and reporting requirements—the same types of rules the
4 Ninth Circuit has already held are preempted.

5 8. Reflecting CARB’s lack of experience with and understanding of the railroad
6 industry, the Regulation’s dictates are unworkable and counterproductive. While Plaintiffs and
7 their members are committed to sustainable freight transportation and further reductions in
8 emissions, fulfilling that commitment requires realistic solutions accounting for the actual state of
9 technological development. CARB’s regulation instead imposes mandates premised on
10 unrealistic technology forecasts, which would undermine the effectiveness of rail transportation
11 and likely force some operators into bankruptcy.

12 9. The Regulation is unlawful. The Regulation is preempted in full under the
13 ICCTA, and central aspects of the Regulation are preempted under the Clean Air Act and the
14 Locomotive Inspection Act. In addition, the Regulation is a CARB attempt to dictate railroad
15 policy for the nation in violation of the Dormant Commerce Clause.

16 10. The Regulation is also infeasible. Given the inherently interstate nature of railroad
17 operations, it is not practicable for locomotive operators with networks spanning several states to
18 adopt California-specific solutions to CARB’s sweeping mandates in California alone. CARB’s
19 analysis expressly assumes railroad operators will be forced to make changes to their *national*
20 locomotive fleets in response to the Regulation. But if California can impose its policy choices
21 on the railroads, so too can any other state, leading to an entirely unworkable patchwork of state
22 regulatory schemes that undermines the efficiency of an interconnected, interstate transportation
23 network.

24 11. AAR and ASLRRRA (“Plaintiffs”) accordingly seek relief from this Court to
25 declare that the Regulation is invalid and to enjoin Defendants from implementing and/or
26 enforcing the Regulation.

THE PARTIES

1
2 12. Plaintiff AAR is a non-profit, voluntary association representing both freight and
3 passenger railroads. AAR works with its members to enhance the economy, safety, and
4 efficiency of rail service by promoting sound transportation policy and facilitating the exchange
5 of information among railroads, their customers, and the public at large.

6 13. AAR regularly represents its member railroads in proceedings before Congress,
7 the courts, and federal and state administrative agencies in matters of common interest to its
8 members, such as the issues that are the subject of this litigation. As part of this role, AAR
9 participated in the proceedings that led to the adoption of the Regulation, including by submitting
10 written comments and oral testimony in response to CARB’s notice of public hearing and
11 proposal.

12 14. AAR’s freight members operate 83% of the line haul mileage, employ 95% of the
13 workers, and account for 97% of the freight revenue of all railroads in the United States. AAR’s
14 passenger railroads operate intercity passenger trains and provide commuter rail service.

15 15. AAR’s members include the largest (Class I) and some of the smallest (Class III)
16 railroads in the country.³ Union Pacific, for example, is a Class I railroad with over 32,452 miles
17 of track in 23 states and over 33,000 employees. BNSF is also a Class I railroad with 32,500
18 miles of track in 28 states and over 33,000 employees. Both have thousands of miles of track and
19 thousands of employees in California.

20 16. As these descriptions reflect, AAR’s members own (or lease) and operate
21 locomotives that are part of the national freight and passenger rail network, including within the
22 State of California. As a result, AAR’s members are immediately and directly harmed by the
23 Regulation, which interferes with their ability to effectively manage their locomotive networks.

24 17. Plaintiff ASLRRRA represents the interests of approximately 600 Class II and Class
25 III railroads operating in nearly every U.S. state. These “short line” railroads play a vital role in
26 the nation’s hub-and-spoke transportation network, often providing the necessary first-mile/last-

27
28 ³ Class I, Class II, and Class III refer to designations assigned by the Surface Transportation Board (“STB”) based on railroads’ annual revenue.

1 mile connection between farmers and manufacturers and the ultimate consumer. Together, short
2 lines operate nearly 50,000 miles of track, or about 30% of the national railroad network.

3 ASLRRRA participated in the proceedings that led to adoption of the Regulation, including by
4 submitting written comments.

5 18. Like AAR's members, ASLRRRA's members own (or lease) and operate
6 locomotives within California, and are thus immediately and directly harmed by the Regulation.
7 Approximately 25 short line railroads operate in California. Sierra Northern Railway, for
8 example, is a Class III railroad that owns and leases over 130 miles of track in California, with
9 more than 80 California employees. Mendocino Railway is similarly a Class III railroad with
10 over 75 employees and more than 70 miles of track in California, over which it operates freight
11 locomotives, passenger locomotives, and historic locomotives. Short line railroads are not limited
12 to a single state: Arizona & California Railroad Company, for example, is a 205-mile Class III
13 railroad that operates in California and Arizona, with 91 miles of track and 26 employees in
14 California. It transports agricultural products, petroleum products, minerals and stone, chemicals
15 and plastics, and lumber and forest products.

16 19. Defendant Steven S. Cliff is the Executive Officer of CARB. Defendant Cliff
17 ("the Executive Officer") is responsible for the promulgation, implementation, and, in substantial
18 part, enforcement of the Regulation. Defendant Cliff is sued in his official capacity only.

19 20. Defendant Liane M. Randolph is the Chair of CARB. Defendant Randolph is sued
20 in her official capacity only.

21 21. Defendants John Eisenhut, Susan Shaheen, John R. Balmes, Diane Takvorian, Bill
22 Quirk, Dean Florez, Hector De La Torre, Davina Hurt, V. Manuel Perez, Eric Guerra, Nora
23 Vargas, Tania Pacheco-Werner, Gideon Kracov, Henry Stern, and Eduardo Garcia are members
24 of CARB, and are sued in their official capacities only.

25 22. Defendant Rob Bonta is the Attorney General of the State of California.
26 Defendant Bonta ("Attorney General") is responsible for the enforcement of the Regulation and is
27 sued in his official capacity only.
28

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1
2 23. Plaintiffs’ causes of action arise under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and/or the United States
3 Constitution. The Court has federal question jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C.
4 §§ 1331 and 1343.

5 24. The Court has authority to enjoin enforcement of the Regulation under 42 U.S.C.
6 § 1983 and/or its inherent equitable authority to enjoin state officials who are violating, or plan to
7 violate, federal law, *see Ex parte Young*, 209 U.S. 123 (1908), and to grant declaratory relief
8 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.

9 25. Plaintiffs bring this suit on behalf of their members, one or more of whom possess
10 standing to sue in their own right. *See Cal. Trucking Ass’n v. Bonta*, 996 F.3d 644, 653 n.7 (9th
11 Cir. 2021). In particular, the Regulation forces Plaintiffs’ members to make substantial changes
12 to their operations—including, among other harms, installing unwanted and unnecessary
13 technology on their locomotives, changing the composition of their fleets, and otherwise diverting
14 capital to comply with the Regulation. These harms are directly caused by the Regulation and
15 would, in turn, be redressed by a favorable decision, as enjoining the implementation and
16 enforcement of the Regulation would necessarily eliminate the increased burdens the Regulation
17 causes.

18 26. AAR and ASLRRRA also satisfy the additional requirements for associational
19 standing. The interests at stake in this litigation are precisely the interests that AAR and
20 ASLRRRA exist to protect. Both organizations are dedicated to ensuring that their members can
21 operate safe, efficient, and cost-effective freight transportation, and they seek to advance those
22 interests by engaging with policymakers, including by participating in rulemakings and, where
23 necessary, pursuing litigation. There is also no reason Plaintiffs’ members need to individually
24 participate in this suit. Both AAR and ASLRRRA are fully able to represent their members’
25 interests, as evidenced by the fact that both have provided declarations from individual members
26 describing the effects of these Regulations on the members’ operations.

27 27. Venue is appropriate in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), as
28 Defendants’ offices are in Sacramento, California (in this judicial district), the Board sits in

1 Sacramento, California, and the Board held meetings regarding the Regulation in Sacramento,
2 California, including the final vote approving the Regulation.

3 **BACKGROUND**

4 **I. Railroads Are Subject To Exclusive Federal Regulation**

5 28. The U.S. railroad system is foundational to the efficient transportation of freight
6 and passengers across the nation. Currently, freight railroads haul around 1.7 billion tons of raw
7 materials and finished goods in a typical year. Freight rail accounts for around 40% of long-
8 distance ton-miles, more than any other mode of transportation. *See* U.S. Freight Railroads, AAR
9 – Congress Fact Sheet (March 23, 2023), *available at* <https://bit.ly/3UT4FF3>.

10 29. The freight rail industry in the United States is not a combination of discrete,
11 disconnected railroads, but rather a single interconnected system of six Class I railroads and
12 hundreds of short line (Class II or Class III) railroads that together own and maintain nearly
13 140,000 route-miles of track through every continental state.

14 30. At any given time, approximately 5 to 10% of the line-haul locomotives operated
15 by the six Class I railroads are owned or leased by another railroad.⁴ This practice, known as
16 “locomotive run-through interoperability,” allows the railroads to maximize the efficiency of
17 locomotive use in moving freight trains across the country and reduces transportation time by
18 eliminating the need to exchange locomotives when moving from one railroad’s line to another’s.
19 It thus reduces the idling and switching time for locomotives.

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27 ⁴ A “line-haul locomotive” is a locomotive that is “powered by an engine with a maximum rated
28 power (or a combination of engines having a total rated power)” of greater than 2,300
horsepower. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 1033.901 (defining a “line-haul locomotive” as a “a locomotive that
does not meet the definition of switch locomotive”).

1 31. As shown in the diagram below, in a 60-day window a single Class I train can
2 travel across the country, crossing in and out of many different states.



32. Given the interconnected nature of the U.S. rail system, “the Federal Government has determined that a uniform regulatory scheme is necessary to the operation of the national rail system.” *United Transp. Union v. Long Island R.R.*, 455 U.S. 678, 688 (1982); *see also City of Auburn v. U.S. Gov’t*, 154 F.3d 1025, 1029 (9th Cir. 1998) (“Congress and the courts long have recognized a need to regulate railroad operations at the federal level.”). As the Surface Transportation Board (“STB”)—which has exclusive jurisdiction over rail transportation—has explained, “[a]llowing states and localities to create a variety of complex regulations governing how an instrument of interstate commerce is operated, equipped, or kept track of ... would directly conflict with the goal of uniform national regulation of rail transportation.” *U.S. Env’t Prot. Agency*, FD 35803, 2014 WL 7392860, at *9 (STB Dec. 29, 2014). Several federal laws thus preclude state and local regulation over this “intrinsically interstate form of transportation.” *Elam v. Kansas City S. Ry. Co.*, 635 F.3d 796, 804 (5th Cir. 2011).

1 federal emission regulations, for preemption purposes “new” locomotives or engines include
2 “remanufactured or refurbished” ones. *See* 40 C.F.R. §§ 1074.5, 1033.901.

3 40. Section 209(e)(2) also requires that a state first receive an express waiver from
4 EPA before adopting or attempting to enforce “standards and other requirements relating to the
5 control of emissions” from nonroad vehicles or engines, including non-new locomotives or
6 engines operating beyond their useful life. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 7543(e)(2); 40 C.F.R. §§ 1074.101;
7 Final Rule, *Emission Standards for Locomotives and Locomotive Engines*, 63 Fed. Reg. 18978,
8 18994 (Apr. 16, 1998) (“all state requirements relating to the control of emissions from in-use
9 locomotives and locomotive engines ... are subject to section 209(e)(2)’s waiver requirement”).

10 **The Locomotive Inspection Act**

11 41. The Locomotive Inspection Act governs the regulation of locomotive equipment.
12 Specifically, the Locomotive Inspection Act provides that “[a] railroad carrier may use or allow to
13 be used a locomotive or tender on its railroad line only when the locomotive or tender and its
14 parts and appurtenances—(1) are in proper condition and safe to operate without unnecessary
15 danger of personal injury; (2) have been inspected as required under this chapter and regulations
16 prescribed by the Secretary of Transportation under this chapter; and (3) can withstand every test
17 prescribed by the Secretary under this chapter.” 49 U.S.C. § 20701.

18 42. “It has long been settled that Congress intended federal law to occupy the field of
19 locomotive equipment and safety.” *Law v. Gen. Motors Corp.*, 114 F.3d 908, 910 (9th Cir.
20 1997); *see also Kurns v. R.R. Friction Prods. Corp.*, 565 U.S. 625, 631 (2012) (holding that
21 Congress “occup[ied] the entire field of regulating locomotive equipment”—a field that “extends
22 to the design, the construction and the material of every part of the locomotive and tender and of
23 all appurtenances”) (quoting *Napier v. Atl. Coast Line R.R. Co.*, 272 U.S. 605, 611 (1926)).

24 **II. The Regulation Targets Railroads By Setting Standards and Other Requirements for** 25 **Locomotive Emissions and Managing Railroad Operations.**

26 43. The Regulation consists of 17 separate sections, all prescribing requirements that
27 apply exclusively to railroads. The Regulation imposes a series of obligations on railroads,
28 including (among other requirements) compelling railroads to deposit significant amounts of

1 money every year in a dedicated “Spending Account” that can be spent only on certain
2 technology; directing railroads to report extensive quantities of geographically based data that
3 railroads are largely not equipped to collect; and restricting the locomotives permitted to operate
4 in the State. The central provisions of the Regulation include the following:

5 **The Spending Account And Administrative Payment Requirements**

6 44. The Spending Account provision (§ 2478.4) requires the railroads to “establish a
7 Spending Account” in which they make substantial annual deposits of funds that “are to be solely
8 dedicated to compliance with the Spending Account requirements.”

9 45. As part of this provision, the “Annual Deposit Obligation” or “Funding
10 Requirement” requires the locomotive operators to make annual deposits that are calculated based
11 upon the operator’s emissions in the previous year. § 2478.4(b), (g). Locomotive operators must
12 “begin tracking California locomotive activity in each air district” and then deposit funds in the
13 spending account using a formula based upon “their locomotives’ cumulative diesel emissions,”
14 as measured by the megawatt hours “their locomotives operated in each California air district
15 over the previous year.”⁵ Ex. 2 at 49; *id.* at 98 (Operators must “calculate the Spending Account
16 funding requirement for each of their locomotives that operated in California annually based on
17 the emissions discharged by the locomotives in the state”); *see also* Ex. 11 at 32.

18 46. BNSF Railway and Union Pacific Railroad estimate \$700-\$800 million will need
19 to be deposited annually by each railroad to comply with the Spending Account requirements.
20 Annual deposits of up to \$5 million may be required of the short line railroads—a huge sum given
21 their much smaller operating budgets.

22 47. The railroads must make their first annual deposit into the Spending Account “[o]n
23 or before July 1, 2024.” § 2478.4(b). But to comply with this obligation, the railroads must
24 begin tracking emissions immediately, as the initial deposit is calculated based on emissions
25

26
27 ⁵ “‘California Air District’ means one of the local air pollution control districts or air quality
28 management districts established under Health and Safety Code sections 40000 et seq.”
§ 2478.3(a). There are 35 in California. *See AAR*, 622 F.3d at 1096 (explaining that California
“divides its geographic territory into 35 air quality management districts”).

1 produced “from the effective date of this Locomotive Regulation through December 31, of the
2 same year as the effective date.” § 2478.4(g).

3 48. Those deposited funds can only be used to acquire certain narrow categories of
4 locomotives and locomotive equipment. Until January 1, 2030, the Spending Account funds may
5 be spent only on (1) “Cleaner Locomotive(s), or for the Remanufacture or Repower to a Cleaner
6 Locomotive(s),” or (2) specific locomotives and accompanying infrastructure that are either “zero
7 emission” (“ZE”) or capable of operating in a ZE configuration. Beginning on January 1, 2030,
8 Spending Account funds may only be spent on locomotives that are ZE or ZE Capable.

9 49. The Regulation defines “Cleaner Locomotive” as a locomotive “with exhaust
10 emission levels that are equal to or less than Tier 4,” § 2478.3(a), where “Tier 4” refers to the
11 cleanest possible locomotives currently available on the market. *See* ¶ 38, *supra*. Locomotive
12 Operators purchasing new Tier 4 locomotives will still be required to allocate additional funds to
13 a Spending Account based on that new locomotive’s emissions. This feature of the Regulation
14 thus creates a strong disincentive against Tier 4 purchases, as railroads would continue to see
15 their operations taxed despite investing to use the best technology available on the market.

16 50. The Regulation defines a “Zero Emission (ZE) Locomotive” as “a Locomotive that
17 never emits any criteria pollutant, toxic pollutant, or greenhouse gas from any onboard source of
18 power at any power setting when Operated in a ZE Configuration, including any propulsion
19 power that is connected to and moves with the Locomotive when it is in motion.” § 2478.3(a). A
20 “Zero Emission (ZE) Configuration” is “a Locomotive configuration that operates in a zero
21 emission capacity,” as just defined. *Id.* To qualify as “ZE Capable,” the locomotive operator
22 must show “that the Locomotive was only Operated in a ZE Configuration when Operating in
23 California during that Calendar Year.” *Id.* “A ZE Capable Locomotive that has been Operated
24 outside of a ZE Configuration within California at any point during a Calendar Year shall not
25 qualify as a ZE Capable Locomotive for that Calendar Year and shall be treated as an emitting
26 Locomotive based on the U.S. EPA Tier of its engine for the purposes of this Locomotive
27 Regulation.” *Id.*

28

1 51. The Administrative Payment Provision authorizes CARB to collect an annual
2 payment of \$175 per locomotive, with limited exceptions for defined categories of “Historic
3 Locomotives”⁶ and “ZE” locomotives, as defined above. § 2478.12. “The fees listed in this
4 section 2478.12 are not refundable.” *Id.* The Administrative Payment provision is due with the
5 railroads’ submission of their annual report. §§ 24278.11(a)(6), 2478.12.

The In-Use Operational Requirements

7 52. The In-Use Operational Requirements (§ 2478.5) ban certain federally certified
8 locomotives from continuing to operate in California.

9 53. Subsection (a) dictates that, beginning in 2030, no locomotive that is “23 years or
10 older”—as determined by its “Original Engine Build Date”—may operate in California, unless
11 the locomotive has not exceeded a specified quantity of energy usage over its lifetime or it
12 exclusively operates in ZE Configuration within California. § 2478.5(a).

13 54. In contravention of federal law, this ban generally applies to locomotives that have
14 a fully remanufactured engine. § 2478.3(a) (“‘Original Engine Build Date’ means the date of
15 final assembly of the Locomotive Engine, prior to any Remanufacture of the Locomotive
16 Engine.”). By contrast, federal law expressly defines a “remanufactured” locomotive as “new.”
17 40 C.F.R. § 1033.901. Moreover, federal law specifically accounts for a locomotive’s “useful
18 life,” which ends either when the locomotive reaches a certain number of years or MWh, or when
19 the locomotive is remanufactured. 40 C.F.R. § 1033.101(g); *see* ¶ 38, *supra*.

20 55. Subsection (b) likewise dictates that, beginning in 2030, “any Switch, Industrial, or
21 Passenger Locomotive” built in 2030 or later (as determined by its “Original Engine Build Date”)
22 must operate in a ZE configuration “at all times while in California.” § 2478.5(b).⁷

23 ⁶ The Regulation defines “Historic Locomotive” as “a Locomotive that is owned or Operated by
24 a Historic Railroad and meets all the following requirements: (1) Does not haul freight; (2) Is
25 used solely for education, preservation, or historical experience; and (3) The use of the
Locomotive in its original configuration is key to the educational, preservation, or historical
experience.” § 2478.3(a).

26 ⁷ An Industrial Locomotive is operated by “a Locomotive Operator that Operates Locomotives
27 to move their company products but doesn’t provide rail services to other companies or to
passengers.” § 2478.3(a). A Passenger Locomotive is, as its name suggests, “a Locomotive
28 designed and constructed for the primary purpose of propelling passenger Trains and providing
power to the passenger Railcars of the Train for such functions as heating, lighting, and air
conditioning.” *Id.* A Switch Locomotive (also referred to as a “Switcher”) is a locomotive that

1 56. Subsection (c) dictates that, beginning in 2035, any “Freight Line Haul
2 Locomotive Engine” built in 2035 or later (as judged by its “Original Engine Build Date”) must
3 operate in a ZE configuration “at all times while in California.” § 2478.5(c).

4 57. Section 2478.6 allows for temporary “Compliance Extensions” of the In-Use
5 Operational Requirements, but only in a narrow set of circumstances: to remove a locomotive
6 from California; for maintenance; or in the case of delayed or unavailable equipment.
7 § 2478.6(a)-(b). To qualify for such an extension, locomotives must submit an application to the
8 Executive Officer explaining, in particular, the justification for the extension and the length of
9 time the railroad will need to operate the out-of-compliance locomotive in California. *Id.* The
10 Executive Officer then has discretion whether to grant the request. *Id.* Even this limited relief is
11 unavailable for the Spending Account requirements, such that emissions from an out-of-
12 compliance locomotive would continue to trigger Spending Account deposit obligations despite
13 an extension.

The Idling Requirements

14
15 58. The Idling Requirements (§ 2748.9) limit the length of time a railroad may remain
16 stationary without turning off its engine. The Regulation requires that any locomotive with an
17 “automatic engine stop/start” (“AESS”) device must be “shut off no more than 30 minutes after
18 the Locomotive becomes stationary,” except for locomotives operating in ZE configuration or
19 that satisfy a few other narrow exceptions. §§ 2478.9(a), (e); *see also* § 2478.3(a) (“Automatic
20 Engine Stop/Start (AESS)’ means the automatic engine shut down/start up system that controls
21 the engine by stopping or starting it without Operator action described in Code of Federal
22 Regulations, title 40, section 1033.15(g).”).

23 59. The Idling Requirements also require that railroads maintain their AESS
24 capabilities. Specifically, the provision dictates that a “properly functioning AESS shall not be
25 removed, tampered with, or disabled unless for maintenance,” and further directs that a

26
27 _____
28 “does not meet the definition of Industrial or Passenger Locomotive” and “is powered by an
engine with a maximum Rated Power (or a combination of engines having a total Rated Power)
of 2,300 hp or less.” *Id.*

1 “Locomotive Operator with an AESS equipped Locomotive shall ensure the AESS is functional
2 at all times during the Locomotive’s Operation.” *Id.* § 2478.9(b), (c).

3 60. While federal regulations also include a 30-minute idling requirement, the federal
4 requirements apply to the original equipment manufacturer or remanufacturer—not to the railroad
5 operator. 40 C.F.R. § 1033.115(g). Thus, the Regulation imposes an entirely new requirement on
6 railroad operators that does not exist under federal law. *See* Ex. 11 at 40 (acknowledging that
7 “[t]he purpose” of the Regulation “is to clarify what is expected of locomotive *operators*,”
8 whereas “the U.S. EPA rule ... is directed at manufacturers”).

9 **Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements**

10 61. A locomotive operator must register each locomotive that operates in California
11 and provide extensive information about the locomotive. § 2478.10. Locomotives are required to
12 have properly functioning MWh meters at all times, unless the locomotive is operated exclusively
13 in California during a given calendar year. § 2478.10(d).

14 62. The Regulation imposes extensive Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements
15 (§ 2478.11), which are designed to collect the emissions information that is then used to calculate
16 railroads’ required Spending Account deposits. To satisfy the Reporting and Recordkeeping
17 Requirements, Plaintiffs’ members will need to develop and install extensive new technology.
18 The relevant provisions require all locomotive operators in the State to submit annual reports with
19 emissions information for non-ZE locomotives, § 2478.11(b); an itemized list of the description
20 and location of each item purchased with the Spending Account, along with the claimed credits
21 that can be put toward the Spending Account, § 2478.11(c); and particularized power usage data
22 for each locomotive operated in California, § 2478.11(d).

23 63. The railroads must collect extensive data on the use and location of each
24 locomotive operating in California to comply with these requirements. And while the data
25 collection formally begins as of the Regulation’s anticipated effective date (October 1, 2023), it
26 will not be possible for Plaintiffs’ members to comply with Regulation’s obligations unless they
27 commit significant resources to technological adaptation well in advance of that date. Because
28 many locomotive operators in the United States are not currently able to collect the data necessary

1 to compile these reports, they will need to purchase, install, and implement new technology to
2 collect and interpret the data from the locomotives. *See* ¶¶ 84-87, *infra*.

3 **Alternative Compliance Options**

4 64. Finally, in lieu of “direct compliance” with the Spending Account and In-Use
5 Requirements, the Regulation provides two theoretical alternatives: the Alternative Compliance
6 Plan (“ACP”) and the Alternative Fleet Milestone Option (“AFMO”). §§ 2478.4(a), 2478.5(d).
7 These alternative options do not relieve railroad operations from the obligations imposed under
8 other subsections of the Regulation, including both the Idling Requirements and the Reporting
9 and Recordkeeping Requirements.

10 65. The ACP requires locomotive operators to achieve reductions in emissions that are
11 “equivalent to or greater than the reductions that would have been achieved” through direct
12 compliance with the regulations, according to a set of complicated assumptions. § 2478.7(b), (c).

13 66. To replace the Spending Account requirement (§ 2478.4) through an ACP, a
14 locomotive operator must reduce emissions “in amounts equivalent to or greater than the
15 reductions that would have been achieved during the Five-Year Verification Period,” assuming
16 that “(A) all Spending Account funds would have been used to purchase, at Fair Market Value,
17 Tier 4 Locomotives until December 31, 2028, and ZE Locomotives from January 1, 2029,
18 onward”; “(B) The Tier 4 or ZE Locomotives that would have been purchased using Spending
19 Account funds would have been introduced into use in California within one year of the sufficient
20 accumulation of funds to purchase a Tier 4 or ZE Locomotive;” and “(C) Tier 4 Locomotives
21 would Operate for 23 years prior to being removed from California service.” § 2478.7(b)(2).

22 67. To replace the In-Use Operational Requirements (§ 2478.5) through an ACP, a
23 locomotive operator must reduce emissions “in amounts equivalent to or greater than the
24 reductions that would have been achieved during the Five-Year Verification Period,” assuming
25 that “(A) Beginning January 1, 2030, the Locomotive Operator’s Locomotives with an Original
26 Engine Build Date of 23 years and older would no longer be Operated in California as specified
27 in subsection 2478.5(a); “(B) Beginning January 1, 2030, any Switch, Industrial, or Passenger
28 Locomotive Operating in California with an Original Engine Build Date of 2030 or newer would

1 always be Operated in a ZE Configuration in California as specified in subsection 2478.5(b)”; and
2 “(C) Beginning January 1, 2035, any Freight Line Haul Locomotive Operating in California with
3 an Original Engine Build Date of 2035 or newer would always be Operated in a ZE Configuration
4 in California as specified in subsection 2478.5(b).”

5 68. The AFMO, in turn, requires locomotive operators to dramatically transform their
6 existing fleet in roughly five-year stages. By 2030, a railroad that has been approved for the
7 AFMO must have transitioned fully half of its fleet to either “Cleaner” (Tier 4) or ZE
8 locomotives. § 2478.8(b). That number increases to 100% of a railroad’s fleet by 2035, at which
9 point the option to use Tier 4 locomotives begins to phase out. *Id.* By 2042, half of a railroad’s
10 fleet must consist of ZE locomotives, and that number culminates in a fully ZE fleet by 2047. *Id.*
11 As the railroads have explained, it is not possible to overhaul their fleets on CARB’s proposed
12 timeline because, among other reasons, ZE locomotives will not be available on this timeframe;
13 rather, even the most optimistic timelines provided by locomotive manufacturers show no path
14 for zero-emission line-haul locomotives in the coming decades. Railroads do not have an ability
15 to opt-out of an approved AFMO if they later determine it is unworkable, as the AFMO “is valid
16 in perpetuity and binds the Locomotive Operator to follow” it. § 2478.8(i).

17 69. CARB expects the AFMO option will be used only by passenger rail, expressly
18 recognizing that it is not a feasible option for freight operators like Plaintiffs’ members. *See Ex. 3*
19 *at 7.*

20 70. Both the ACP and the AFMO have extensive application processes. For the ACP,
21 railroads must submit their applications to CARB “at least six months prior to the requested start
22 date of the ACP” and provide a slew of information justifying their use of the ACP—including a
23 “detailed explanation of the calculations, assumptions, and information used to demonstrate” that
24 the railroad’s emissions will satisfy the ACP’s requirements. § 2478.7(d). The AFMO requires a
25 similarly detailed application that includes, among other information, a “detailed list” of the
26 railroad’s full fleet of locomotives, and a “detailed description of any plans for expansion of
27 Locomotive Operations in California with details on how the Operator will increase service (e.g.,
28 with new Locomotives or by increasing use of current Locomotive fleet).” § 2478.8(e). Both

1 options are subject to CARB’s discretionary approval, and the ACP is available only if the
2 railroad pays a substantial, nonrefundable fee. §§ 2478.7(g), 2478.8(g), 2478.12.

3 **III. CARB Issues the Regulation in Defiance of Comments and Its Own Previous Legal**
4 **Analysis Recognizing the Agency’s Lack of Authority to Regulate Railroad**
5 **Operations and Locomotive Emissions.**

6 71. AAR, ASLRRRA, and their members have consistently demonstrated their
7 commitment to partnering with federal and state regulators in improving air quality. For decades,
8 railroads have undertaken initiatives to address air quality in California—both on their own and
9 through collaborations with CARB and various Air Districts. In 1998 and 2005, CARB entered
10 into voluntary agreements with several railroads operating in California (among them BNSF and
11 Union Pacific) to control emissions from locomotives—agreements that CARB acknowledges the
12 railroads have fully honored. *See* Ex. 1 at 3-4. Union Pacific and BNSF have likewise worked
13 with CARB and two Air Districts to bring “Tier 4” locomotives into their fleets, *i.e.*, locomotives
14 with the lowest emission levels currently available on the market.

15 72. As these initiatives suggest, CARB has never before attempted to directly regulate
16 locomotive emissions or railroad operations. To the contrary, it recognized that federal law
17 places significant limits on the agency’s authority in this area, which is why CARB has
18 previously worked cooperatively with the railroads to achieve meaningful emissions reductions in
19 a pragmatic manner. In 2005, CARB’s attorneys defended this approach by explaining that “the
20 ICCTA basically protects the railroads from any regulation ... that has a potential economic
21 impact on railroad operations” and would likely preempt state regulations “specifically designed
22 to reduce emissions from railroad locomotives” that “affect how the railroads are permitted to use
23 and operate those locomotives.” *See* Ex. 4 at 16, 21, 27. CARB further explained that “Congress
24 intended ICCTA preemption to be broadly construed,” and that states were likely “prohibited
25 from applying direct, discriminatorily applied regulations”—precisely the issue here. *Id.* at 14.

26 73. CARB changed course with the In-Use Locomotive Regulation, which first took
27 shape in fall 2020 following Governor Gavin Newsom’s issuance of Executive Order N-79-20.
28 That order directed CARB, “to the extent consistent with State and federal law,” to propose
strategies “to achieve 100 percent zero-emission from off-road vehicles and equipment operations

1 in the State by 2035.” E.O. N-79-20 (Sept. 23, 2020) (Cal.), <https://bit.ly/41tEhEg>; *see* Ex. 9 at
2 110-11 (describing this background to the Regulation). In response, CARB decided to disregard
3 previously recognized limits on its regulatory authority and proposed comprehensive regulations
4 of railroad operations and locomotive emissions in California.

5 74. On September 20, 2022, CARB issued a formal Notice of Public Hearing with an
6 Initial Statement of Reasons and Proposed Regulation Order. Both AAR and ASLRRRA
7 submitted comments in response to the Notice. In those comments, Plaintiffs explained in detail
8 that the Regulation would be preempted by the ICCTA, the Clean Air Act, and the Locomotive
9 Inspection Act, in addition to violating the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution. *See* Ex. 1
10 at 9-29; Ex. 5 at 2, Attachment 2 at 5-21.

11 75. Plaintiffs also explained that CARB’s assumptions about the future availability of
12 ZE technologies are unrealistic. *See* Ex. 1 at 33-35; Ex. 5, Attachment 2 at 19-20. While CARB
13 conducted a “technology feasibility analysis,” the analysis merely showed that ZE technology is
14 technically possible in some contexts—not that it is in fact safe, reliable, maintainable, or
15 operable on the North American rail network. As Plaintiffs detailed, CARB has no meaningful
16 evidence to suggest that highly uncertain technological projections (*e.g.*, proposed battery-electric
17 or zero-emission hydrogen locomotives) will result in technology that is sufficiently safe and
18 reliable to use at commercial scale on the timescales contemplated by the Regulation. *See* Ex. 1
19 at 33-35. Rather than rely on meaningful testing data or input from the railroads, CARB turned
20 instead to a literature search and interviews with people in the field (but notably excluding the
21 railroads themselves). *Id.* at 33. The railroads, by contrast, typically test new technology for
22 significant periods of time to ensure that it is safe and able to be used on a commercial scale as
23 part of their interstate rail networks. *Id.* at 34 & n.93.

24 76. ASLRRRA likewise documented the potentially crippling threat the Regulation will
25 have on its members. In particular, it explained that the Regulation “would significantly
26 destabilize the state’s short line railroad industry,” as that industry “already operates on relatively
27 small profit margins.” Ex. 5 at 8. While CARB suggested that short line railroads might be able
28 to stave off extinction by “pass[ing] on the costs” of the Regulation to its customers, ASLRRRA

1 explained why that purported solution is infeasible. *Id.* at 9. Because short line railroads lack
2 pricing power and “compete directly and aggressively with trucks for freight transportation and
3 are also subject to product and geographic competition ... regulatory costs cannot reliably be
4 passed on to the customer.” *Id.*

5 77. CARB did not materially change its regulatory proposal in response to comments
6 from Plaintiffs and others. Its most significant modification was merely to add a second
7 alternative compliance option (the AFMO), which CARB recognized is not a viable option for
8 freight railroads.

9 78. CARB has conceded that its regulatory proposal will have substantial impacts on
10 railroad operations not only within California, but on a national level. Recognizing the
11 interoperability of locomotives in interstate rail networks, CARB “assume[d]” that operators
12 would need to transform their “entire fleet” nationwide to comply with the Regulation. Ex. 2 at
13 177 (emphasis added); *see also* Ex. 6 at 35 (noting that the agency “assumed that each operator’s
14 entire fleet would comply with the ... Regulation, allowing all locomotives to operate as needed
15 in California); *id.* at 88 (assuming that “Class I operators ... would continue their current business
16 practice of sending any available line haul locomotive from their fleets to California,” and would
17 therefore need “to make their entire line haul locomotive fleet compliant”); Ex. 7 at 12 (“For
18 Class I railroads, 72 percent of the nationwide line haul locomotives visit California in any given
19 year.”); Ex. 11 at 67 (“Freight line haul operators operate the locomotives [that operate in
20 California] throughout the entire national rail network and [CARB] staff did not assume changes
21 to this way of operation.”). CARB also assumed that Class I operators like BNSF and Union
22 Pacific “will be able to pass on costs of the [Regulation] across the nation.” Ex. 2 at 200. CARB
23 lacks authority, however, to impose economic regulations on railroad operators, as economic
24 regulation of railroads and rate-setting is the exclusive responsibility of the STB.

25 79. On April 27, 2023, CARB formally adopted the current version of the Regulation.
26 The regulation will be codified at 13 C.C.R. §§ 2478-2478.17.

27 80. On June 9, 2023, CARB transmitted the Regulation to the Office of Administrative
28 Law (“OAL”) for review. OAL reviews a regulation solely for compliance with state-law

1 obligations. OAL does not have authority to review whether a regulation is consistent with
2 federal law, nor does OAL have authority to itself change the substance of a regulation in any
3 manner. *See* Gov. Code § 11349.1.

4 81. OAL is thus required to complete its review of the Regulation within 30 working
5 days from receipt—*i.e.*, no later than July 25, 2023. *See* Gov. Code § 11349.3(a). Unless OAL
6 identifies an error that requires returning the Regulation to CARB, OAL will transmit the
7 Regulation to the Secretary of State within that 30-day period. *See id.* If OAL fails to act within
8 those 30 days, the Regulation “shall be deemed to have been approved.” *Id.* § 11349.3(a).

9 82. Under California law, a regulation becomes effective on one of four quarterly
10 dates based on when the final regulations are filed with the Secretary of State: January 1, if filed
11 between September 1 and November 30; April 1, if filed between December 1 and February 29;
12 July 1, if filed between March 1 and May 31; and October 1, if filed between June 1 and August
13 31. *See* About the Regular Rulemaking Process, California Office of Administrative Law,
14 *available at* <https://bit.ly/43XxLXR>. Thus, under the mandatory timeline for OAL review, the
15 Regulation will become effective following OAL approval on October 1, 2023 (the “Effective
16 Date”). Consistent with that timeline, CARB itself states that the “Regulation is anticipated to go
17 into effect in the fall of 2023.” Ex. 11 at 20.

18 83. On June 11, 2023, CARB posted on its website the agency’s Final Statement of
19 Reasons for adopting the Regulation, which incorporates by reference the Initial Statement of
20 Reasons and responds to submissions by commenters. *See generally* Ex. 11. In the Final
21 Statement, CARB states that it “anticipates seeking ... authorization from the U.S. EPA” for the
22 Regulation under Section 209(e)(2)(A) of the Clean Air Act “[t]o the extent that the [Regulation]
23 imposes standards or other requirements on non-new locomotives.” *Id.* at 21. According to
24 CARB, under Section 209(e)(2)(A), “only U.S. EPA and California” supposedly “have authority
25 to promulgate these types of regulations,” including the Reporting and Recordkeeping
26 Requirements that go immediately into force on the Effective Date. *Id.* at 22, 35. Upon
27 information and belief, CARB has not submitted any such application to the U.S. EPA, the U.S.
28 EPA has not provided notice for a public hearing regarding any such an application, and the U.S.

1 EPA has not “authorize[d] California to adopt and enforce standards and other requirements”
2 established in the Regulation. 42 U.S.C. § 7543(e)(2)(A).

3 **IV. The Regulation Imposes Immediate and Irreparable Harm on Plaintiffs, Who Must**
4 **Begin Undertaking Burdensome, Disruptive Investments Now In Order To Comply.**

5 84. The Regulation imposes certain obligations that begin on the Effective Date. Once
6 the Regulation becomes effective, Plaintiffs’ members will immediately be obligated to collect
7 data to comply with the Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements, with that data then used to
8 determine the amount each railroad must deposit into the Spending Account for the first year.
9 §§ 2478.4(b), 2478.11(a); *see also* Ex. 11 at 128-129 (“Recordkeeping and reporting
10 requirements begin on the effective date of the Proposed Regulation. . . . Locomotive activity and
11 location data are needed as soon as the Proposed Regulation goes into effect[.]”). Plaintiffs’
12 members will also be forced immediately to follow the Idling Requirements. § 2478.9.

13 85. Plaintiffs’ members will not be able to comply with the Reporting and
14 Recordkeeping Requirements on the Effective Date of the Regulation unless they begin to
15 undertake substantial technology investments well in advance of the Effective Date. Plaintiffs’
16 members will also need to divert funds from existing priorities before the Effective Date,
17 inhibiting members’ ability to manage their railroads and interfering with their operations.

18 86. First, the Reporting and Recordkeeping obligations place a certainly impending
19 and substantial burden on Plaintiffs’ members. For example, none of BNSF’s locomotives
20 gather, correlate, and transmit the real-time data required under the Regulation to record the
21 “Total engine hours Operated in each California Air District.” § 2478.11(b)(2), (3). Hundreds of
22 BNSF’s locomotives are missing the on-board technology needed for these measurements (MWh
23 meters and/or GPS units), and none of BNSF’s systems are designed to apportion activity or
24 emissions to 35 individual Air Districts across California. As a result, BNSF will be unable to
25 comply with the Regulation unless it installs new equipment on its locomotives and builds new
26 back-end infrastructure to properly analyze the data *before* the Regulation takes effect. To
27 comply, BNSF will need to create and install sophisticated software that tracks to a high degree of
28 precision (1) how much electricity each locomotive generates while in each California Air

1 District (measured in MWh), and (2) how much time each locomotive spends operating while in
2 each California Air District. None of BNSF’s locomotives are currently equipped with software
3 of this type, meaning BNSF will need to begin installing the new technology and building this
4 new back-end infrastructure in advance to be able to comply with the Regulation.

5 87. Union Pacific likewise does not currently have the technology required to record
6 the locational use information required by the Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements.
7 Many of Union Pacific’s locomotives lack MWh meters, some lack GPS units, and some do not
8 have technology to transmit the required data (including the required idling data) back to the
9 company’s centralized data system. As a result, Union Pacific will not be able to comply with the
10 Reporting and Recordkeeping requirements as of the Regulation’s effective date unless it first
11 installs new technology on many of its locomotives—at an estimated cost of \$264 million.

12 88. Likewise, the railroads must prepare *now* for the substantial deposits they will
13 have to make in their Spending Accounts by July 1, 2024. BNSF, for example, estimates that
14 under the Regulation’s formula, it will have to deposit around \$800 million per year. To set aside
15 funds on that order of magnitude, BNSF will need to begin reallocating funds it would otherwise
16 use for important infrastructure and maintenance across its nationwide network. Likewise, Union
17 Pacific must immediately divert capital it would spend on other critical priorities, including safety
18 enhancements, track upgrades, and preparations to respond to catastrophic weather events.

19 89. Other members of Plaintiffs are in the same untenable position, and several short
20 line members will not be able to bear the substantial and immediate expenses imposed by the
21 Regulation. These short line operators face a serious prospect of bankruptcy. CARB itself has
22 conceded this significant risk, recognizing the possibility that some Class III locomotive operators
23 in California “would be *eliminated*” due to “the costs of the Proposed Regulation.” Ex. 6 at 143
24 (emphasis added).

25 90. For example, Mendocino Railway is a small Class III carrier with very narrow
26 margins and no spare financial resources to install the necessary technology. As a result, if the
27 Regulation takes effect while this litigation proceeds, it could be forced into bankruptcy. The
28 short-term effects of the Spending Account provision are no less dire. To be able to deposit the

1 approximately \$312,268 necessary to comply with the Spending Account requirement,
2 Mendocino Railway must set aside funds that it was otherwise planning to spend on
3 improvements to its railroad line, potentially jeopardizing the safe operations of both its freight
4 and passenger trains.

5 91. Sierra Northern has likewise explained that the Spending Account provision will
6 require it to deposit as much as \$2 million annually, forcing it to cease making safety upgrades to
7 its railroad tracks and other infrastructure and also forcing the company to end investments in
8 upgrading its fleet to more environmentally friendly (and currently available) locomotives.

9 92. Absent an injunction, Plaintiffs’ members will accordingly experience extensive,
10 imminent, and irreparable harm.

11 **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

12 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

13 **(Declaratory/Injunctive Relief – Preemption By the ICCTA)**

14 93. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the preceding allegations as though
15 fully set out herein.

16 94. The ICCTA preempts all state and local laws and regulations impacting railroad
17 operations “unless” they are (1) “rules of general applicability,” *and* (2) “do not unreasonably
18 burden railroad activity.” *AAR*, 622 F.3d at 1098. The Regulation fails both prongs of this test.

19 95. First, the Regulation is preempted because it directly targets locomotives. As the
20 individual provisions reveal, the Regulation is not a “rule[] of general applicability,” *AAR*, 622
21 F.3d at 1098, but rather focuses entirely—and exclusively—on locomotives. *See* § 2478.1(a)
22 (regulation governs “Locomotive Operator[s] that Operate[] a Locomotive in the State of
23 California”); *see also* Ex. 11 at 82 (describing the Spending Account as “a regulatory concept
24 developed to address the unique circumstances of the railroad industry”). The Regulation, both in
25 its individual provisions and taken as a whole, has the effect of managing or governing rail
26 transportation.

27 96. The Spending Account provision requires railroads (and only railroads) to deposit
28 funds that can then only be used to purchase certain narrow categories of locomotives and

1 railroad equipment approved by CARB. *See* § 2478.4. The provision thus impermissibly dictates
2 to railroads what equipment they may purchase and more generally commandeers railroads’
3 decisionmaking on capital investments to comply with CARB’s priorities and mandates. *See U.S.*
4 *Env’t Prot. Agency*, 2014 WL 7392860, at *9 (identifying as preempted state regulations that
5 “govern[]” how railroads are “operated [or] equipped”).

6 97. The In-Use Operational Requirement imposes an effective blanket ban on the
7 operation of federally certified locomotives that are 23 years or older, as measured from the date
8 of original manufacture, notwithstanding an average useful life of 40 years or more. *See*
9 § 2478.5. Locomotives that satisfy federal emission standards and that are within their “useful
10 life” under federal law will be prohibited from operating in California. In addition, after specified
11 time points, the provision restricts the use of all new locomotives in the State to locomotives that
12 are capable of operating in ZE configuration. § 2478.5(b), (c). By prohibiting certain
13 locomotives from operating within the State and further dictating how locomotives must operate
14 in the State going forward, this provision directly interferes with railroad operations, with the
15 effect of managing and governing rail transportation.

16 98. The Idling Requirements mandate that railroads shut off their locomotives (with
17 limited exceptions) within 30 minutes of the locomotive becoming stationary. *See* § 2478.9. This
18 requirement has the effect of managing or governing rail transportation. *See AAR*, 622 F.3d at
19 1096, 1098 (holding that an environmental regulation that “limit[ed] the permissible amount of
20 emissions from idling trains” was preempted under ICTAA); *AAR v. S. Coast Air Quality Mgmt.*
21 *Dist.*, 2007 WL 2439499, at *3 (C.D. Cal. Apr. 30, 2007) (explaining that the preempted
22 regulation at issue required “the Railroads to limit idling of unattended locomotives to 30 minutes
23 or less in certain circumstances); *see also Delaware*, 859 F.3d at 18 (“[B]y limiting times and
24 places for idling, and providing exceptions, [the state statute] directly regulates the rail
25 transportation of passengers or property by limiting permissible idling time[s] ...”).

26 99. The Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements mandate that railroads collect
27 extensive operational data and report it to CARB for purposes of calculating the deposit
28 obligations for the Spending Account. § 2478.11. These provisions apply only to railroad

1 operators and they impose significant burdens on the railroad industry, which will need to make
2 significant technological adaptations to collect the necessary data. This requirement has the
3 effect of managing or governing rail transportation. *See AAR*, 622 F.3d at 1096 (holding that
4 reporting requirements related to locomotive emissions were preempted); *see also U.S. Env't*
5 *Prot. Agency*, 2014 WL 7392860, at *9 (recognizing that requiring “railroad employees to
6 comply with idling and recordkeeping rules for each jurisdiction ... would likely result in an
7 unworkable variety of regulations”). Moreover, the Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements
8 exist specifically to inform the Spending Account requirements, as they provide the necessary
9 emissions inputs into CARB’s formula. Because the Spending Account requirements are
10 themselves improper under the ICCTA, there is no valid basis for the Reporting and
11 Recordkeeping Requirements.

12 100. The Administrative Payment provision applies only to railroad operators, imposing
13 a payment obligation on railroads for the purpose of funding CARB’s regulatory scheme to
14 govern rail transportation. § 2478.12. Such a discriminatory payment that falls exclusively on
15 railroad operators is impermissible. *See BNSF Ry. Co. v. Cal. Dep’t of Tax & Fee Admin.*, 904
16 F.3d 755, 760 (9th Cir. 2018).

17 101. Because the Regulation is not a generally applicable law but rather specifically
18 targets the railroad industry, it is categorically preempted without any need to inquire into the
19 practical effect of any of its provisions. And because the impermissible targeting of the railroad
20 industry applies to the Regulation as a whole, none of its provisions can survive preemption.

21 102. Second, the Regulation is also preempted because it has “the effect of
22 unreasonably burdening or interfering with rail transportation.” *Delaware*, 859 F.3d at 19. In
23 particular, the Regulation displaces railroad spending priorities and forces railroads to make huge
24 outlays of capital for untested, unproven, commercially infeasible locomotives and accompanying
25 equipment. The Regulation also interferes with railroad operations by dictating what locomotives
26 are permitted to operate in the State and setting strict, burdensome conditions for locomotive use
27 in the State, including restrictive idling rules, onerous recordkeeping and reporting obligations,
28 and targeted administrative fees.

1 becomes new if it is remanufactured or refurbished (as defined in this section).” 40 C.F.R.
2 § 1033.901.

3 108. Even as applied to non-new locomotives or engines operating beyond their useful
4 life period under federal law, the In-Use Operational Requirements are preempted under Section
5 209(e)(2) of the Clean Air Act because the EPA has not granted any waiver authorizing
6 California to adopt or enforce these emission standards. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 7543(e)(2); *Pac.*
7 *Merchant Shipping Ass’n v. Goldstene*, 517 F.3d 1108, 1113 (9th Cir. 2008).

8 109. The Spending Account’s Funding Requirement and the Purchase Restrictions
9 attached to those funds are also expressly preempted under Section 209(e).

10 110. The “Funding Requirement” is a “standard or other requirement” under Section
11 209(e) because it imposes specific mandates on locomotive operators. *See* § 2478.4(g)(2) (“the
12 Locomotive Operator shall use the following formula to calculate the Spending Account *funding*
13 *requirement* for each Locomotive....” (emphasis added)).

14 111. The Funding Requirement also “relat[es] to the control of emissions” from
15 locomotives, as “[t]he goal” of the Spending Account “is to increase uptake of cleaner diesel
16 locomotives and zero-emission locomotives.” Ex. 9 at 111. Moreover, “[t]he amount deposited
17 in the account is calculated by using the locomotive’s annual usage in megawatt hours (MWh)
18 and the locomotive’s emission factors.” Ex. 2 at 20; *see also* Ex. 11 at 32 (noting that “operators
19 with any locomotive that emits harmful pollutants in California must set aside funds in proportion
20 to the harm”). The Funding Requirement thus attaches “liability” for past emissions, which is “a
21 potent method of governing conduct and controlling policy.” *Riegel v. Medtronic, Inc.*, 552 U.S.
22 312, 324 (2008) (citation omitted).

23 112. The Purchase Restrictions in § 2478.4(d) likewise are preempted as an “attempt to
24 enforce” a “standard or other requirement relating to the control of emissions.” 42 U.S.C.
25 § 7543(e). Section 2478.4(d) sets forth purchase restrictions for locomotives that are expressly
26 tied to emission levels. Those purchase restrictions are an “enforcement technique[.]” within the
27 scope of Section 209 preemption. *Engine Mfrs. Ass’n v. S. Coast Air Quality Mgmt. Dist.*, 541
28 U.S. 246, 253-54 (2004).

1 113. The Spending Account provisions (like the In-Use Operational Requirements) are
2 thus preempted under section 209(e)(1) and/or section 209(e)(2).

3 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 **(Declaratory/Injunctive Relief – Preemption by the Locomotive Inspection Act)**

5 114. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the preceding allegations as though
6 fully set out herein.

7 115. The Locomotive Inspection Act “occup[ies] the entire field of regulating
8 locomotive equipment”—a field that “extends to the design, the construction and the material of
9 every part of the locomotive and tender and of all appurtenances.” *Kurns*, 565 U.S. at 631
10 (quoting *Napier*, 272 U.S. at 611). It thus establishes a “sweeping preemption rule.” *Forrester v.*
11 *Am. Dieselelectric, Inc.*, 255 F.3d 1205, 1210 (9th Cir. 2001); *see also Union Pac.*, 346 F.3d at
12 869 (explaining that the Locomotive Inspection Act “occup[ies] the field of locomotive
13 equipment” regulation).

14 116. The Idling Requirements are preempted by the Locomotive Inspection Act because
15 they purport to regulate the locomotive’s equipment and maintenance.

16 117. Specifically, § 2478.9(c) requires that a “Locomotive Operator with an AESS
17 equipped Locomotive shall ensure the AESS is functional at all times during the Locomotive’s
18 Operation.” Similarly, § 2478.9(b) provides that “[a] properly functioning AESS shall not be
19 removed, tampered with, or disabled unless for maintenance.” § 2478.9(b). A railroad that owns
20 a locomotive with an AESS is thus bound to keep that equipment, and further to ensure that the
21 equipment remains in working order.

22 118. As the Supreme Court has recognized, a state cannot properly “require railroads to
23 equip their locomotives with parts meeting state-imposed specifications”—precisely what
24 California seeks to do here. *Kurns*, 565 U.S. at 636. Nor can a state dictate standards for “the
25 repair and maintenance of locomotives,” as this category is likewise “aimed at the equipment of
26 locomotives.” *Id.* at 635. The Idling Requirement thus falls within the heartland of the field
27 occupied by the Locomotive Inspection Act .
28

1 unconstitutionally impede the flow of interstate goods, imposing significant burdens on interstate
2 transportation.

3 123. The burden on interstate commerce is compounded by the likelihood of imitation:
4 if California is permitted to enforce the Regulation, other states will surely follow suit with their
5 own regulations, creating a hugely disruptive “patch-work regulatory scheme.” *Union Pac.*, 346
6 F.3d at 871.

7 124. In addition, the burden imposed on interstate commerce by the Regulation, as
8 detailed above, “is clearly excessive in relation to the putative local benefits.” *Pike v. Bruce*
9 *Church, Inc.*, 397 U.S. 137, 142 (1970). CARB asserts that the Regulation will achieve better air
10 quality and associated health benefits. But these benefits depend on implausible technological
11 projections made by CARB of when ZE technology will be commercially available. In fact, the
12 Regulations’ mandates are counterproductive, because they will disrupt railroads’ existing
13 investments in safety and the environment and because the compliance burdens imposed make the
14 industry less competitive in relation to other forms of freight and passenger transportation that
15 produce far greater levels of criteria, toxic, and climate pollutants, such as trucks. *See Ex. 1 at 7-*
16 *8 (discussing the effects of shifting freight transportation to trucks).*

17 125. The Administrative Payment provision also independently violates the Dormant
18 Commerce Clause. That provision imposes an annual flat fee of \$175 per locomotive operated in
19 California, with narrow exceptions for ZE locomotives and historic locomotives. § 2478.12. The
20 imposition of such a flat fee on transportation companies engaged in interstate commerce
21 penalizes interstate travel and imposes an impermissible burden on interstate commerce. *See Am.*
22 *Trucking Ass’ns, Inc. v. Scheiner*, 483 U.S. 266, 285 (1987) (holding that such operational fees
23 violate the Dormant Commerce Clause because they “can obviously divide and disrupt the market
24 for interstate transportation services,” including by provoking “retaliatory” fees imposed by other
25 states”); *id.* at 284 (“If each State imposed flat taxes for the privilege of making commercial
26 entrances into its territory, there is no conceivable doubt that commerce among the States would
27 be deterred.”).

28

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

A. WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:

B. For a declaration that CARB’s In-Use Locomotive Regulation, to be codified at 13 C.C.R. §§ 2478-2478.17, is invalid in its entirety, and that it is contrary to law for Defendants to enforce the Regulation in any form.

C. For a preliminary and permanent injunction requiring Defendants to conform their conduct to such judicial declaration and barring them from implementing or enforcing the In-Use Locomotive Regulation, to be codified at 13 C.C.R. §§ 2478-2478.17, in any way;

D. For such costs and attorneys’ fees to which Plaintiffs may be entitled by law; and

E. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

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