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The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

The Honorable Robert E. Primus
Vice Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman
Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

The Honorable Michelle A. Schultz
Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 14)

Notice of Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council Vacancies; Solicitation of Nominations

Dear Chairman Oberman, Vice Chairman Primus, Member Begeman, Member Fuchs, Member Schultz:

Please accept this application as my expression of interest for one of the two vacancies for small railroad representative on the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council ("RSTAC"). I currently serve as chief policy officer for Patriot Rail Company LLC ("Patriot") which operates 13 short line railroads across the United States. My prior public service with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Senate Committee on Science, Commerce, and Transportation staff, together with my diverse private sector rail experience, well qualifies me to represent short line interests on the RSTAC.

Patriot operates short lines based in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Utah, and Washington, and reaches shippers in many more states. These small Patriot railroads, with profiles ranging from industrial park operations to main line service, interchange with five of the seven Class I freight railroads. With a total organizational commitment to safety, Patriot handles tens of thousands of carloads annually, transporting almost every commodity category – from hazardous materials to industrial products, natural resources, and agricultural shipments. Patriot's geographic and operational scope, including multimodal rail truck transload and cross dock facilities, and its customer shipper, Class I and other business partnerships, offers a full perspective upon which to represent short lines across the nation on the RSTAC, if I am privileged to be selected.

My prior public service provides a strong foundation for my prospective contribution to the RSTAC. As deputy administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration from 1994-1999 under President Clinton, I assumed chief operating responsibility for FRA's safety and other regulatory oversight and policy, budget and operational execution, and engagement with Congress. I had a principal role in the USDOT's negotiations with Congress leading to enactment of the ICC Termination Act of 1995, establishing the

Board and the RSTAC. As a senior agency leader, I helped formulate USDOT's position on major rail mergers and acquisitions, and drove the creation of FRA Rail Safety Advisory Committee and its initial regulatory agenda. Prior to my appointment to FRA, from 1991-1994 I served with the staff of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee as senior counsel to the then Surface Transportation Subcommittee. I supported the Committee's oversight of safety, performance, public investment and economic competitiveness policy in rail and other transportation modes, including the development of the legislative foundation for the subsequently enacted ICC Termination Act.

Following my service with FRA and the Senate Commerce Committee, in private law practice I represented rail and transportation clients including a Class I railroad, an operator of refrigerated railcars with Amtrak, major commuter railroads, global rail manufacturers and technology suppliers, industry trade associations (including the OneRail Coalition which I co-founded), and state rail authorities and departments of transportation. Through my work before Congress, the Executive branch, and independent agencies including the Board, I gained a keen appreciation of the commercial, policy and regulatory challenges facing short line and Class I railroads, and their customers.

In 2010, I joined General Electric Company to lead U.S. government affairs for GE Transportation, and in 2018 became vice president government relations and public affairs for Wabtec Corporation globally. At Wabtec I worked closely with the team implementing I-ETMS Positive Train Control at more than 40 freight and passenger railroads across the country. I also helped structure the partnership by GE Transportation and then Wabtec with the Port of Los Angeles to facilitate the Port Optimizer digital logistics portal that revolutionizes data analytics opportunities for improved transport service and efficiency. This and other rapidly advancing data tools will create even greater digital infrastructure applications beyond current rail information services for short lines.

I believe that my more than 30 years of public service and private sector policy experience in the rail sector would enable constructive input to the RSTAC's mission to develop recommendations to advance the most effective and efficient transportation system practicable. I have supported solutions for issues that arise between railroads and their customers (from demurrage rules and paper barriers to new digital infrastructure), and have helped build coalitions such as OneRail to address the most pressing challenges facing the rail industry. My involvement with these and other initiatives bolsters the forward perspective on productive policy outcomes that I hope to contribute as a member of the RSTAC.

Patriot Rail CEO John E. Fenton fully endorses this application to the RSTAC. If appointed, I am available to serve immediately, and I would embrace an opportunity to work closely with the other RSTAC railroad and shipper members to advance a vital private sector policy assessment and recommendation role. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Donald M. Itzkoff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Donald" being the most prominent.

Donald M. Itzkoff
Chief Policy Officer