



MISSISSIPPI EXPORT RAILROAD

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February 12, 2021

Mr. Martin J. Oberman
Board Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
February 12, 2021
Part of
Public Record

Re: SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD [Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 14)]
Notice of Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council Vacancies;
Solicitation of Nominations

Dear Chairman Oberman:

Congratulations on your recent designation as Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board (STB). On behalf of two Class III rail carriers in Mississippi and Alabama, I wish you and your fellow members much success as you all navigate leading the Board in the years ahead.

This letter shall serve to convey my express interest in one of the vacant small railroad member positions on the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC). Upon my review of the vacancy notice in STB Docket No. EP526 (Sub-No. 14), I was pleased to learn that at least four of the voting members of the RSTAC must be from a Class II or III railroad. The inclusion of small railroads is critical to forming a better understanding of the economic and regulatory climates in which all railroads and our partner shippers seek to navigate daily.

Between our flagship company, the Mississippi Export Railroad (MSE), and its subsidiary, the Alabama Export Railroad (ALE), we currently employ 57 dedicated professionals. We proudly service customers across a wide-range of industries – agriculture, energy generation, defense, and construction – to name just a few. Our companies are currently engaged in number of growing lines of business – including freight transportation and planning, industrial development, transloading, railcar repair, and railcar storage.

Since 2018, I have had the distinct privilege of serving on the Board of Visitors at my graduate alma mater, Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. The customers and employees I interact with in the normal course of business might tell you that I am most comfortable when issuing final judgements or entering negotiations. Whether that is true or not, one thing I am certain of is that learning how and when to deploy leadership skills was unquestionably the highlight of my time at Fuqua; of course, I was humbled to be asked to return in the role I serve in now and return the favor to an institution that has played such an integral role in my professional development.



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Likewise, I am confident that I could represent my industry in a way that benefits the larger shipper community. Thank you for your consideration of my interest in filling one of the small railroad vacancies on the RSTAC. I welcome the opportunity for further dialogue with the appropriate representatives at the STB and am happy to provide additional background information or references as required.

Sincerely,

Kate C. Luce
President & CEO