



National Grain and Feed Association

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Submitted Electronically

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February 15, 2021

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
February 16, 2021
Part of
Public Record

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

Dear Chairman Oberman:

The National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) wishes to inform you of its strong support of the application of Joe B. Parsons, president and chief executive officer of the Iowa Interstate Railroad, to fill one of the two small railroad representative vacancies on the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) Railroad-Shipper Advisory Council (RSTAC).

NGFA, established in 1896, consists of more than 1,000 grain, feed, processing, exporting and other grain-related companies that operate more than 7,000 facilities and handle more than 75 percent of all U.S. grains and oilseeds. Its membership includes grain elevators, feed and feed ingredient manufacturers, biofuels companies, grain and oilseed processors and millers, exporters, livestock and poultry integrators, and associated firms that provide goods and services to the nation's grain, feed and processing industry. NGFA also consists of 33 affiliated State and Regional Agribusiness Associations, and has strategic alliances with the North American Export Grain Association and Pet Food Institute.

The Iowa Interstate Railroad, a Class II carrier, operates more than 570 miles of track between Omaha, NE, and Chicago, IL. NGFA believes Mr. Parsons is well-qualified to serve, given his more than 18-year-career working for Class I, II and III railroads. Most importantly, from NGFA's perspective, the Iowa Interstate has a strong focus on serving Midwestern agricultural shippers and receivers of grains, oilseeds, grain products and ethanol.

NGFA believes Mr. Parson's extensive railroad experience, his involvement in the American Shortline and Regional Railroad Association, and the leadership he has provided and culture he has instilled at Iowa Interstate would make him a valuable contributor to the important dialogue that occurs within the RSTAC. NGFA also believes it is important to have a Midwestern carrier represented on the RSTAC.

Thank you for your consideration of Mr. Parson's application and of NGFA's views on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randall C. Gordon".

Randall C. Gordon
President and Chief Executive Officer