
ESSENTIAL
MINERALS
ASSOCIATION

305645

November 15, 2022

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman, Chairman
The Honorable Michelle Schultz, Vice Chairman
The Honorable Patrick Fuchs, Member
The Honorable Robert Primus, Member
The Honorable Karen Hedlund, Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
November 16, 2022
Part of
Public Record

**RE: Nomination to Fill the Vacant Shipper Representative Position on the RSTAC
Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 15)**

Dear Chairman Oberman and STB Board Members,

On behalf of the membership of the Essential Minerals Association (EMA recently rebranded from the Industrial Minerals Association – North America), I am writing today to nominate Mr. Robert (Bob) Zacker to fill the small shipper representative vacancy on the RSTAC. Bob is the Director of Supply Chain for Genesis Alkali. Genesis is a member company at EMA that produces soda ash in Green River, Wyoming. In addition to his day job with Genesis, Bob has volunteered countless hours over the last decade as the Chairman of our Transportation Committee. In this capacity, Bob has helped guide the minerals industry on a wide-variety of issues with a strong focus on rail-related issues. The experience as the Chairman of the Transportation Committee for the minerals industry for the last decade has placed Bob in a unique position compared to most, as he has a very strong appreciation for the needs of shippers of all sizes.

As you know, from our previous interactions, the EMA is the representative voice for the minerals industry. Our member companies produce or process the raw materials that are absolutely critical for virtually all of our manufacturing and technological needs; they play a vital role in agricultural areas as well from fertilizers to animal feeds; and are essential to our nation's energy needs, both traditional and green. EMA represents about 40 companies that produce or process over 20 minerals at 300+ sites throughout the United States.

Our member companies rely heavily on rail for our transportation needs. In many, but not all, cases our members are captive to a railroad as a significant percentage of our member companies' operations are in rural areas. Because of the diverse nature of our membership, both in terms of location and size, as our Chairman, Bob has become very well-versed in the issues that all of the members are facing. Because of this, Bob would not only be able to speak on how his company is being impacted, but also the broader industry as well.

Bob meets all of the requirements to be a member of the RSTAC. He is a United States citizen and as the EMA Transportation Committee Chairman for over ten years would be a terrific representative voice for the minerals industry as a whole. The vast majority of our members qualify as a small business under the Small Business Administration's definition. While they are small businesses, these operations still are heavily reliant on rail. And given the diverse locations, we are on all of the Class 1 Railroads, and this would enable Bob to be in a position to offer insights as issues arise that would provide great value to the Council in their activities.

I firmly believe that Bob will provide the STB and the RSTAC with the type of broad and diverse viewpoints to the Council that they are hoping to receive in filling this position. The membership of EMA is as broad and diverse as there is in the minerals industry which will allow Bob to provide a voice for the minerals industry as a whole which has not yet been done before at the Council.

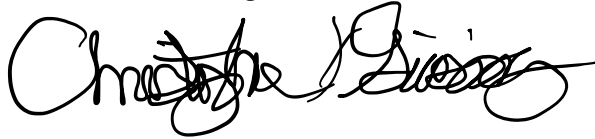
The entire supply chain has been impacted significantly over the last several years, even before Covid. There has been significant consolidation of the railroads over the last several decades. This has resulted in the railroads adjusting their philosophy and overall business practices often to the detriment of captive and small shippers. By having someone with Bob's experience,

ESSENTIAL
MINERALS
ASSOCIATION

coupled with his long-time position at EMA as Chairman, the RSTAC will be able to provide real-time information of actual issues that are arising across our membership related to the railroads and shipping concerns.

I would like to thank the members of the Surface Transportation Board for the opportunity to nominate Bob Zacker to the Council. I know he is very much looking forward to the prospect of participating on the RSTAC and is committed to joining if his nomination is accepted. I am excited at the prospect of having such a strong voice for the minerals sector on the RSTAC. If you should have any questions regarding this nomination, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. On behalf of my membership, I would like to thank you for all the work you are doing to ensure that the rail shipping system in the United States is as strong and fair as possible for all. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on the issues at hand.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Greissing". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christopher" being more legible than the last name "Greissing".

Christopher Greissing
President
Essential Minerals Association
chrisgreissing@ima-na.org
571-527-4655