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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

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Office of Proceedings  
November 16, 2022  
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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 the rest of the STB Board:

I am writing to express my interest to fill the vacant position for the small rail shipper position representative vacancy on the RSTAC. I understand that Chris Greissing, on behalf of the Essential Minerals Association (EMA), recently rebranded from the Industrial Minerals Association, has nominated me to fill this vacant role. I meet the underlying requirements for the position as listed in the Board's Notice of Railroad Shipper Transportation Advisory Council Vacancy, dated October 31, 2022. I am a citizen of the United States, I am not a full-time employee of the United States Government, and I am willing to serve as an RSTAC member effective immediately.

I am the Director of Supply Chain for Genesis Alkali and have been the Chairman of the Transportation Committee for the EMA for the last decade. Genesis Alkali is a mining and chemical refining company that mines an ore called Trona. We refine this ore into Sodium Carbonate and Sodium Bicarbonate. Our company employs approximately 950 people near Green River, Wyoming in the southwest corner of the state where our mine and surface operations are located. The EMA is a trade association created to advance the interests of companies that mine or process essential minerals used throughout the manufacturing and agricultural industries. Examples of minerals represented by the EMA include ball clay, bentonite, borates, calcium carbonate, feldspar, industrial sand, lithium, mica, soda ash, talc, and wollastonite.

Genesis Alkali ships products by both truck and rail to our customers in North America. Our primary customers are glass producers, but we also serve detergent manufacturers, chemical producers, the baking industry, and water treatment operations. We are heavily dependent on rail service to move our product to our North American customers and our global customers through our primary export terminal located in Portland, Oregon. Our Green River, WY operation is rail captive to the Union Pacific Railroad, but we rely heavily on all the major North American railroads and many of the Short Line carriers to service our customers.

As the Director of Supply Chain for Genesis Alkali, I am heavily involved in managing all relevant dealings with the railroads. My team and I are responsible for ensuring that our product ships and is delivered to



our customers in a timely manner that meets their requirements. We negotiate rates, understand tariff implications, resolve billing disputes, lease, and manage railcars and their movements, and work on behalf of our customers to make sure the delivering carriers meet their needs.

It would be a tremendous honor to serve as a representative on the RSTAC. My background, management approach and direct experience with rail shipping would provide additional practical insight and voice on the RSTAC. The rail industry in the United States has consolidated over the last 30 years. Railroad companies have tremendous power and influence and play a major role in the movement of goods throughout this country. As a shipper it is vital that we have a voice in matters that can have a significant impact on our business and to be present for discussions and consideration. By working together with the Board, the railroads, and other shippers we can reach mutually acceptable solutions to everyday problems that we all experience. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to contribute to those discussions on a regular basis and offer my thoughts and experience to achieve the best results.

Sincerely,

Bob Zacker

Director, Supply Chain

Genesis Alkali