

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-5000
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The Honorable Martin Oberman
Chairman
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Docket No. EP 670 Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee Vacancies

Dear Chairman Oberman,

I write today in strong support of Paul Lang to serve on the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC). Mr. Lang has extensive experience working for one of the nation's largest coal producers and would greatly serve RETAC's mission and needs.

RETAC's charter requires that its membership include three representatives from coal producers. As Wyoming's representative, a state which produces over 40% of our nation's coal, I am concerned STB is failing to meet this requirement, especially at a time when rail issues are causing significant financial harm to Wyoming coal. Train schedules have become unpredictable and, on some days, do not even arrive at all. This increasing uncertainty cost Wyoming alone over \$100 million last year. It is more important than ever that coal has a seat at the table.

Mr. Lang is the CEO of Arch Resources with over forty-years of experience in the coal mining industry. Arch is the second largest thermal coal producing company and metallurgical coal producing company in the world. As a national leader in the coal mining industry, Mr. Lang has a unique perspective and history on the essential nature of the rail service to the coal production industry. Notably for RETAC, Arch shipped 80 tons of thermal coal last year alone proving a strong understanding of rail energy transportation.

Rail issues are one of the greatest challenges facing the coal industry today meaning the need for coal industry representatives on RETAC has never been greater. Filling the three open coal slots RETAC is mandated to have is of primary importance and Mr. Lang is more than qualified to advise STB as it navigates these rail energy challenges. I recommend Mr. Lang for RETAC and urge you to consider his nomination. If you have any questions about his candidacy please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,



Harriet M. Hageman
Member of Congress