

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 Vern Lund to serve on the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC). Mr. Lund brings over two and a half decades of experience in the coal industry 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. Lund serves as the CEO for the Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC). NTEC is wholly owned by the Navajo Nation and is the third largest coal producer in the country selling both domestically and internationally. It provides nearly a third of the contributions to the Navajo Nation's General Fund each year. Mr. Lund has over twenty-five years of experience serving in roles in six coal mining companies giving him an in-depth knowledge of the industry and the essential nature of rail service to the coal production industry.

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. Lund is more than qualified to advise STB as it navigates these rail energy challenges. I recommend Mr. Lund 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