

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-5000

February 16, 2023

EP_670_2

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February 16, 2023
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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 Randall M. Atkins to serve on the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC). Mr. Atkins brings over 30 years of experience in the coal industry working in America's major coal basins, including work with new applications for coal.

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. Atkins is the founder, chairman of the board, and CEO of Ramaco Resources. He also serves as the CEO of Ramaco Carbon, a Wyoming based coal technology company operating in the Powder River Basin. With over 35 years of experience in energy related investment and financing activity, Mr. Atkins also serves on the Board of Directors of the National Mining Association, as Chairman of the National Coal Council, and has testified before Senate and House Committees.

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