

United States Senate

February 27, 2023

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Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Surface Transportation Board,

I write to you in support of Mr. Vern Lund's request to be placed in nomination for one of the coal producer positions on the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC). He would bring an experienced perspective to this position reflective of Montana and Western United States coal producers.

Mr. Lund currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer for Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC), which is owned by the Navajo Nation. NTEC is the third largest coal producer in the United States with approximately \$51 million in annual domestic sales and three to five million tons in annual sales into the export market. In addition to mining and selling coal, NTEC also produces and sells helium, has an ownership interest in a coal-fired power plant, is a partner in a lithium mine under development, holds a material investment in a rare earth mine, and is actively pursuing wind and solar projects. NTEC also owns and fully operates a 12-mile rail line in their Navajo Mine. As a result of NTEC's diverse energy portfolio, Mr. Lund has vast experience with the various facets of the supply chain, with a high level of emphasis on rail service to meet economic and production goals.

Further, Mr. Lund has over 25 years of leadership and engineering experience at various coal companies and truly understands the importance of rail service to this industry in the Western United States.

I trust that you will give Mr. Lund all due consideration for one of the coal producer positions on RETAC.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines
United States Senator