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September 15, 2023

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September 15, 2023
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Dear Sir/Madam:

I hereby nominate Mr. Bruce E. Nickle to the open at-large seat on the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC) of the Surface Transportation Board (STB).

Following are his details:

Name: Mr. Bruce E. Nickle

Title: Director of Logistics and Transportation, Freeport McMoRan Inc.

Email: bnickle@fmi.com

Tel. 602-478-4665

In the at-large seat of RETAC, Mr. Nickle can provide a unique perspective from a U.S. company in the hard rock mining industry.

Freeport-McMoRan is the world's largest publicly traded copper mining company, and its mines in Arizona and New Mexico produce over 60% of the U.S. domestic copper supply, most of which is shipped by rail. In total, our company ships over 2 million tons of materials by rail and handles over 50,000 carloads. Products transported via rail include chemicals, mining processing supplies, copper ore and finished products, and include shipments from suppliers and to our customers.

These shipments are under a sole service agreement with a single rail company, and we believe the recent STB Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding reciprocal switching agreements will have a significant beneficial impact to our company's operations and service reliability, as well as those of other companies in similar situations. Mr. Nickle has a deep understanding of the important role rail services play throughout our economy.

Copper was recently listed as a critical material by the U.S. Department of Energy and is essential to the country's clean energy transition and power grid reliability. Demand for copper in the U.S. is forecast to double by 2035 due to investments in renewable infrastructure and electric vehicles. Consequently, the reliable and cost-effective transportation by rail of copper and related commodities and equipment will increase in significance and importance, and it is essential to ensure the industry's perspective is included in STB discussions and decisions.

Mr. Nickle has over thirty years of experience in transportation, logistics and supply chain management in private industry and the Department of Defense. As Director of Logistics and Transportation, he manages extended supply chains using rail service in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, and has global responsibilities utilizing all modes of transport in North America, Latin America, and Indonesia. He previously held executive level and leadership positions in the U.S. Marine Corps and a Department of Defense Joint Command. These positions involved not only logistics operations, but strategic planning, budgeting, regulations, legislation, and policy.

He has a Bachelor of Science degree from the Virginia Military Institute and a Master of Science degree in Strategic Resource Management with a Supply Chain Core from the Dwight D. Eisenhower School of National Security and Strategic Resource Management, National Defense University.

Mr. Nickle is willing and would be honored to serve as a member of the RETAC. He agrees to serve in a representative capacity for a three-year term ending on September 30, 2026. Mr. Nickle is eager to engage with the board, members of the committee, other shippers, and the railroads themselves to drive improvements and innovations in rail service to support domestic production and manufacturing.

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate Mr. Nickle. He would provide a unique viewpoint on the shipment of a commodity that is so critical to not only renewable energy in the face of ongoing climate change, but also to electric grid reliability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.J. Ong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

J.J. Ong