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Jan. 4, 2024

Mr. Martin J. Oberman, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

(via e-File)

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RE: Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No. 1), *NOTICE OF PASSENGER RAIL ADVISORY VACANCIES*

Dear Chairman Oberman:

With the consent of the *Rail Passengers Association's* elected leadership, I would like to nominate myself to serve on the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC), representing the interests of the passenger rail advocacy community. I am willing and able to serve in a representative capacity for any duration. Our Association is committed to providing staff support and covering travel expenses associated with this service without recourse to the Board and is also prepared to provide this support across multiple service terms.

My contact information and biographical details are included below in this letter.

Also known as the National Association of Railroad Passengers, *Rail Passengers* is the nation's oldest and largest organization speaking for the nearly 40 million Americans who rely every year on passenger rail of all kinds. Created in 1967, this Association played a pivotal role in the creation of Amtrak in 1971 and continues to carry the voice of the passenger to decisionmakers at every level.

Our mission is to improve and expand intercity, regional, and urban passenger train services, to support higher speed rail initiatives, to increase connectivity among all forms of transportation and, to ensure safety for our country's trains and passengers. We work with all levels of government – Federal, state, local and tribal. Our work makes communities safer, more accessible, and more productive, improving the lives of everyone who lives, works, and plays in towns all across America. Every day, our professional staff in Washington, D.C., works on behalf of travelers to support more trains to more places for more people, most recently helping to create the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law as the culmination of decades of grassroots rail advocacy.

I have led this staff for nine years as President & CEO and bring to the role nearly two decades' experience in executive leadership, transportation-sector public policy, policy formation, legislative strategy, and message development. I have served on six Federal advisory panels, and have testified or presented briefs before Congressional committees, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and this Board. Current appointments include the FRA's Rail Safety Advisory Committee, the RSAC Passenger Rail Working Group, the Hazardous Materials Working Group, and a working group advancing a Confidential Close Call Reporting System for train crews.

I also served on a committee advising the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), working to resolve bottlenecks in the U.S. surface-transportation network that are slowing down the supply of vital medical equipment (masks, respirators, needles, sharps boxes, personal-protective equipment, etc.) as the nation recovers from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, I worked for four years on the U.S. Dept. of Transportation's National Advisory Committee on Travel & Tourism Infrastructure, or NACTTI, appointed to my seat in 2016 by DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx and re-appointed during the Trump Administration by DOT Secretary Elaine Chao.

Rail Passengers congratulates the Surface Transportation Board for creating the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee to bring stakeholders together in a meaningful way. We all recognize that the truly historic opportunities and game-changing funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law have created the best opportunity in a generation to work together on building a rail network worthy of the United States. We firmly believe that strong freight rail and passenger rail networks are not only compatible, but requisite, and we remain ready to assist in the work of PRAC.

Respectfully,



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