

307838

30 Isabella Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
USA

January 24, 2024

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
January 25, 2024
Part of
Public RecordRe: Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No. 1), *Notice of Passenger Rail Advisory Committee Vacancies*

Dear Chairman Oberman,

On behalf of Westinghouse Air Brake Technologies Corporation (Wabtec), I am pleased to submit the nomination of Christopher Zappi to serve as an at-large representative on the Surface Transportation Board (STB) Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC). Mr. Zappi's current role as a strategy executive at Wabtec and his extensive experience in intercity, freight, and commuter rail collaboration and rail technology make him particularly well-positioned to add value to the STB as a member of the PRAC.

As background, Wabtec has been a global leader in equipment, components, services, software, and systems for the transportation industry for over 150 years. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, Wabtec operates in over 50 countries with 27,000 employees worldwide, including over 12,000 employees in the U.S. With more than 23,000 freight and passenger locomotives in its global installed base, and over 13,000 operating in North America, Wabtec moves more than 20% of the world's freight and 80% of the freight in North America. In addition, our North American installed base includes dispatching and movement planner software deployed on both passenger and freight rail lines, along with over 400 GE and MotivePower passenger locomotives operated by intercity and commuter rail operators, and the I-ETMS Positive Train Control system deployed on 60,000 miles of track.

Mr. Zappi has worked closely on intercity, freight, and commuter rail issues that are directly relevant to the PRAC's priority matters, making him uniquely qualified to serve as an at-large member of the committee:

1. Expertise in rail technology and equipment for freight and passenger rail operations. Rail operations across the country rely on essential Wabtec technology to plan, dispatch, and operate freight and passenger services. As Senior Director for Global Strategy at Wabtec, Mr. Zappi works across our businesses to develop innovative strategies that deliver value to freight and passenger railroads and improve the safety, operations, reliability, and sustainability of rail. Critical to this role is incorporating the perspective of both passenger and freight operators into Wabtec's technologies and product portfolio to improve the entire rail ecosystem. For example, he has advanced the go-to-market strategy for new zero emissions passenger locomotives and a new platform to deliver visibility and condition monitoring for freight cars, and leads collaborative efforts across the industry, including through participation in the American Public Transportation Association, Commuter Rail Coalition, Railway Supply Institute, and OneRail. Mr. Zappi understands the diverse perspectives of intercity, commuter, and freight rail operators and how technology can help ensure railroads provide high quality service to passengers, shippers, and communities.

2. Proven leadership in passenger and freight rail collaboration. Prior to joining Wabtec, Mr. Zappi worked at Amtrak for seven years in leadership roles across strategy, business development, operations, and policy. During three of those years, Mr. Zappi led the Host Railroad Performance team, responsible for improving on-time performance on host railroads by analyzing trends to identify operational pain points and collaborating with host railroads to improve service. Mr. Zappi pursued solutions that would deliver better service for passengers and add value to host railroads by building productive working relationships with Class I, short line, and commuter railroads and understanding the full range of considerations, including: the collective operation over a given rail line, route characteristics and constraints, host railroad objectives and drivers, dispatching practices, train schedules and recovery time distribution, and maintenance of way needs. This approach delivered results: better service for passenger and freight customers through schedule adjustments, innovative contractual incentive modifications, reduced maintenance of way conflicts, and ultimately fostering a culture of teamwork across passenger and freight organizations. In this role, Mr. Zappi served as the principal Amtrak representative for on-time performance issues for Congress, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and STB officials, including leading the implementation of the FRA's Metrics and Standards Rule, managing the schedule certification process with more than 30 host railroads and 1,000 train schedules.
3. Commuter rail experience. In addition to freight and intercity passenger rail operators, Mr. Zappi has worked directly on commuter rail services, actively engaging agencies for Wabtec and previously leading business development for Amtrak's business providing operating services on behalf of commuter rail agencies, requiring a close understanding of each commuter rail service's operation, customer needs, and objectives.

Mr. Zappi's experience across rail technology and intercity passenger, freight, and commuter rail is underpinned by business roles earlier in his career at Accenture Strategy Consulting and Goldman Sachs.

I represent that Mr. Zappi is willing to serve as an at-large member of the PRAC and agrees to serve in a representative capacity. Wabtec will be responsible for any expenses incurred by Mr. Zappi in connection with service on the PRAC. Please see his contact information below:

Christopher Zappi
Senior Director, Global Strategy
Wabtec Corporation
Email: christopher.zappi@wabtec.com
Phone: (301) 412-5706

Thank you for your consideration of Christopher Zappi's nomination to the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,



Peter G. Thomas
Corporate Vice President
Wabtec Corporation