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Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Please accept this submission to the referenced docket. My complete contact information is;

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Submission:

The importance of the passenger-rail network to the communities of the nation that are served now, that were served in the past, and that may potentially be served in the future, cannot be understated. However, the necessity of balancing the needs of all stakeholders with the operations of both intercity and commuter focused passenger services cannot be ignored as service modifications are considered.

Having provided the above statement of my beliefs, I hereby self-nominate as a candidate for one (1) of the three (3) **At-large Representative** positions on the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC) as outlined in the STB posting of January 4, 2024. I believe I possess a unique suite of qualifications that may be of interest and benefit to the Board as a member of the PRAC.

First and foremost, my professional qualifications are very well aligned with those outlined in the solicitation for committee candidates. I recently retired (1/1/2024) from Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR), having served as its *Chief Engineer - Design & Construction* for the last eight (8) of my 37.5 year career. Prior to that role I was *Assistant Chief Engineer - Project Planning* for ten (10) years. In those leadership and decision making roles I was the principal point of contact for technical matters relating to NSR's interactions with the passenger rail stakeholders, including but not limited to; Amtrak for NEC and Midwest improvement projects, Michigan DOT, North Carolina DOT, Pennsylvania DOT, Illinois DOT, MERTA, NICTD, Virginia Railway Express, and the Virginia DRPT. I had oversight responsibility for the review and approval of Amtrak's station-focused ADA programs taking place along the NSR network from that program's start through 2023. In addition to technical matters, I have broad understanding of the details of railway operations including train control and dispatching systems. It is

suffice to say that on a near-daily basis I interacted with internal and external stakeholders on the implementation of passenger-rail projects for more than two (2) decades and holistically understand the complexity of rail operations in the U.S..

Secondly, I have lived experience as a user of U.S. passenger-rail. This continuum stretches from before the Amtrak-era until the present. I have also had direct exposure as a user to commuter passenger-rail operations hosted by both Amtrak and other carriers. In a concise summation, throughout my lifetime I have been an interested student of the U.S. passenger rail system. I have observed the creation and the waning and waxing of the current network, and have been directly exposed to many of the network expansion and/or improvement proposals that have been brought forth since 1990.

From a professional leadership perspective, I am a Life Member of the American Railway Engineering & Maintenance of Way Association (AREMA). I have served in multiple leadership roles in that organization, culminating with a term as President in 2017 and service on AREMA's Board of Governors for a span of three (3) years.

Educationally, I am a graduate of Michigan State University (BSCE - 1986), and have attended the executive development programs at the University of Virginia's Darden School and Dartmouth University's Tuck School of Business. Additionally, I hold Professional Engineer registration in seven (7) states.

I have reviewed the listed responsibilities of the role and am very willing to commit both the time and expense associated with assisting the Board in this important conversation. I would thoroughly enjoy an opportunity to use my experience and expertise in an open-minded and unbiased manner for the benefit of the nation. I look forward to further discussion of my qualifications as a candidate for the role.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Becker", with a stylized, flowing script.

David A. Becker, PE