



American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

January 30, 2024

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The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Office of Proceedings
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Public Record

Re: Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No.1)

Dear Chairman Oberman,

I am writing to express my support for Husein Cumber's nomination to serve as a member of the Surface Transportation Board's ("Board") newly formed Passenger Railroad Advisory Committee ("PRAC").

Mr. Cumber would appear to fit very well as one of the two *"representatives from existing intercity passenger rail operators other than Amtrak, or developers of new intercity passenger rail lines other than Amtrak."*

I have personally known Husein for two decades and can attest that he is thoughtful, knowledgeable, dedicated to the success of both passenger and freight rail, well connected, well resourced, and an extraordinarily hard worker. Relentless even!

Prior to starting Brightline Florida, Husein was the Executive Vice President for Corporate Development at Florida East Coast Railway ("FECR"), a Class II freight railroad. During his time at the FECR, Husein was integral to reconnecting the freight line with PortMiami and construction of an intermodal container transfer facility at Port Everglades to increase intermodal capabilities throughout the state of Florida. Husein is also a past board member of the Florida Strategic Intermodal Transportation Advisory Committee, past president of the Florida Railroad Association, and was an active member of the ASLRRA.

His experience in the freight rail industry allowed Mr. Cumber to appreciate the unique and complicated relationship between freight and passenger rail when developing Brightline. Mr. Cumber is one of the few people who has been an executive at multiple companies operating in a shared corridor, which will give him a unique perspective while serving on the PRAC. Mr. Cumber was a key architect of a Joint Use Agreement for the FECR corridor and understands that growth must be mutually beneficial to both freight and passenger rail systems operating in a shared corridor.

Mr. Cumber also served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the USDOT and served both Secretary Norman Mineta and Secretary Mary Peters. I worked with him during his service at USDOT where he had policy

responsibility for the FRA. He knew our industry's challenges and was always helpful in fairly resolving policy issues.

Mr. Cumber's background and experience with issues regarding intercity passenger rail, freight rail, commuter rail, and his policy experience with USDOT make him uniquely qualified to serve as a member of PRAC and ASLRRA is pleased to provide its support for his nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CB', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Chuck Baker
President, ASLRRA