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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
February 2, 2024
Part of
Public Record

Re: Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No. 1)
Amtrak's Nominations for Passenger Rail Advisory Committee

Dear Chairman Oberman:

On November 13, 2023, the Surface Transportation Board (STB or the Board) announced the establishment of a Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC). In accordance with the PRAC's Charter, two representatives from the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) will serve on the committee. On January 4, 2024, the STB solicited nominations from the public for candidates to fill the vacancies on the PRAC.

As Amtrak's President, **I am nominating Christopher S. Perry and James A. Blair as Amtrak's two representatives to this committee**, on behalf of Amtrak. The application materials shown below demonstrate that Mr. Perry and Mr. Blair are well qualified to serve on PRAC and would bring a strong awareness of the challenges and opportunities facing intercity passenger rail service. Both nominees have spent most of their careers in the transportation industry, with particular focus on rail issues. They are experts in this field and would be a reliable voice for Amtrak and our diverse workforce of over 20,000 employees.

Amtrak Nominees – Christopher S. Perry (Three-Year Term) and James A. Blair (Two-Year Term)

Christopher S. Perry

Associate General Counsel

1 Mass. Ave. N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20001

christopher.perry@amtrak.com

office: 202.906.3398

cell: 202.294.2434

James A. Blair

Assistant Vice President, Host Railroad

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Philadelphia, PA 19104

blairj@amtrak.com

office: 215.349.2787

cell: 215.316.1857

Christopher S. Perry – Experience

Mr. Perry is Associate General Counsel at Amtrak. Since joining the Law Department in 2022, Mr. Perry has been the lead Amtrak attorney representing the company's interests before the Board. Mr. Perry advises Amtrak's leadership on a variety of litigation and regulatory matters

and works closely with Amtrak's Host Railroad Group to support Amtrak's relationships with host railroads across the national network.

Before joining Amtrak, Mr. Perry worked for eleven years in the General Counsel's Office at the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). Mr. Perry counseled DOT's leadership on legal issues affecting the Office of the Secretary and all of DOT's operating administrations, with particular focus on rail. Mr. Perry worked closely with leadership and career staff at the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and coordinated DOT and FRA's work before the Board and other independent federal agencies. Mr. Perry also partnered with the Department of Justice in the defense of DOT and FRA rules and decisions affecting passenger and freight rail operations. While at DOT, Mr. Perry served in extended leadership details as the Deputy head of DOT litigation and as the Acting Assistant Chief Counsel for Litigation and Enforcement at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Mr. Perry also worked in law firm practice for several years at Jones Day and Winston & Strawn LLP, practicing in both Washington, D.C. and Chicago. Mr. Perry focused on complex litigation matters, including agency proceedings and federal appeals affecting the transportation sector. Mr. Perry served as a law clerk to the Hon. Gerald B. Tjoflat of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. He graduated from the Duke University School of Law and the College of the Holy Cross.

James A. Blair – Experience

Mr. Blair is the Assistant Vice President, Host Railroads. He has been with Amtrak since 2008. Mr. Blair and his team are responsible for the business relationship with the 34 different railroads on which Amtrak operates outside the Northeast Corridor, and the freight railroads that operate on the Northeast Corridor. Mr. Blair is responsible for negotiating approximately 100 agreements annually, including short and long-term operating, real estate, and financial agreements with host railroads. He has executed multiple construction projects valued at more than \$30M annually. Mr. Blair develops and implements strategies to improve Amtrak train performance nationally.

Mr. Blair has served as one of Amtrak's lead negotiators, focusing on complex long-term, multi-party, and multi-agreement deals. He has coordinated operating and settlement agreement negotiations with all major railroads, many state departments of transportation and several regional transportation authorities.

Prior to joining Amtrak, Mr. Blair worked ten years with multiple transportation and economic consulting firms. Mr. Blair also worked for twelve years in the freight railroad industry at Conrail where he developed proforma financials and coordinated due diligence for

five potential railroad acquisitions. Mr. Blair led freight railroad marketing initiatives for the automotive sector and helped lead efforts to develop new premium service products and master contracts in the wake of industry deregulation. Additionally, Mr. Blair worked at a General Motors final assembly plant for four years as an Assistant Traffic Manager. Mr. Blair is a graduate of Penn State's Business Logistics program and holds an MBA from St. Joseph's University.

Both Mr. Perry and Mr. Blair have expressed a desire to serve as a member of the PRAC. They also have agreed to serve in a representative capacity on the committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Roger Harris
President