

February 1, 2024

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

Re: Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No.1) – Nomination of Husein Cumber

Dear Chairman Oberman,

I am writing to express my interest and willingness to serve on the Surface Transportation Board's ("Board") newly formed Passenger Railroad Advisory Committee ("PRAC"). Specifically, I would qualify for one of the following two categories:

- (1) Representatives from existing intercity passenger rail operators other than Amtrak, or developers of new intercity passenger rail lines other than Amtrak; or
- (2) At-large representatives with relevant experience, including (but not limited to) individuals involved in the design or construction of passenger rail equipment or infrastructure; in the provision of passenger rail analytic or consulting services; in transportation planning; or in transportation-related public policy work.

I have been working in the rail industry for approximately 25 years and currently serve as the Chief Strategy Officer for Florida East Coast Industries, the parent company to Brightline Holdings, which developed the first privately owned and operated intercity passenger rail system in the U.S. in over 100 years by connecting Miami to Orlando with service speeds of over 125 mph. My role is to guide major capital projects from initial concept through development and, in the case of Brightline, that includes initial land acquisition for stations, right-of-way negotiations, environmental permitting, securing public financing, negotiating a Joint Use Agreement with the host railroad, developing grasstops and grassroots support, and other pre-construction activities. The full Brightline Florida system opened September 22, 2023, connecting Miami to Orlando. I currently manage the planning efforts to extend the system from Orlando to Tampa.

I am part of the initial team that envisioned the Brightline service. My belief that the country is ready for the introduction of new high-speed rail corridors stems from representing a consortium bidding on the Tampa to Orlando high-speed rail project in 2009 and understanding the need to move passengers more efficiently on corridors that are "too long to drive and too short to fly." Highway congestion is continuing to plague growing regions and mega-regions of America and there are no longer rights-of-way available in dense population centers that allow highway expansion.

In 2011, I joined Florida East Coast Railway, the Class II freight railroad that connects Jacksonville, Florida to Miami, Florida. In December 2011 I was asked to perform due diligence on whether an intercity passenger rail system could be constructed and operated without public operating subsidies on an existing rail corridor. That work resulted in the announcement of All Aboard Florida (now Brightline Florida) in March 2012 and thus began the recruitment of a dedicated team of hospitality and engineering talent that could reinvent train travel.

The historic investment in passenger rail by the federal government during the Biden Administration has created expansion opportunities for Amtrak, state-sponsored systems like California High Speed Rail, and new entrants like Brightline. To date, Brightline Florida has invested \$6 billion of private capital in passenger rail and Brightline West will be investing approximately \$9 billion of private capital. It is important to have someone who represents the transformation occurring in industry on the PRAC, and Brightline is at the forefront of the rail renaissance in this country.

In addition to leading the Brightline pre-construction efforts, I have been involved with commuter rail expansion efforts for over twenty years. The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority ("SFRTA") operates the Tri-Rail commuter rail service between Palm Beach County, Broward County, and Miami-Dade County. It is a key transportation asset that moves people to and from work in a cost-effective way. SFRTA expanded its Tri-Rail operations on January 13, 2024, into downtown Miami by accessing the Florida East Coast Rail (FECR) corridor. This shared corridor now has freight, intercity, and commuter rail operations. I was instrumental in bringing this service into downtown Miami. In 2012, I led the effort to apply for a federal grant that connected the South Florida Rail Corridor and the FECR corridor and negotiated an access agreement to allow Tri-Rail trains to serve the Brightline MiamiCentral station for a nominal fee to enhance both systems. Tri-Rail now serves downtown Miami through a shared station.

My responsibilities with Brightline West included the due diligence efforts that led to the acquisition of the predecessor company, developing the strategy to secure environmental permits, negotiating rights-of-way agreements, and securing public funding for the project. Brightline West is preparing to break ground to connect Southern California and Las Vegas. I also want to highlight my strong relationship with the thirteen rail operating labor unions that will be involved with Brightline West throughout the project. I led the negotiations with the rail unions and executed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) covering the operations and maintenance of the high-speed rail system. The Brightline West MOU established the model for rail labor's partnerships with future high-speed rail projects in the United States. The California High Speed Rail Authority followed Brightline West's lead and signed a similar MOU with rail labor.

I also have a lengthy background with freight rail. I was a member of Florida East Coast Railway's ("FECR") executive team twice in my career. During my tenure, I was responsible for the financial structuring and management of several capital projects, including reconnecting the freight line to PortMiami and the construction of an intermodal container transfer facility. My experience with both the freight and passenger rail industries, and with the development of the FECR corridor Joint Use Agreement between Brightline and FECR, provides me unique insight into the freight and passenger rail relationship. I understand that ensuring mutual growth for both freight and passenger rail systems is important when operating in a shared corridor.

I have relevant Federal government experience. I served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation ("USDOT") serving Secretary Norman Mineta and Secretary Mary Peters. My role included overseeing the Federal Railroad Administration and Federal Transit Administration. I was closely involved with the development of Congressional language mandating Positive Train Control following the Union Pacific-Metrolink accident. I worked to develop a new discretionary grant program to alleviate traffic congestion, similar to today's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity grant program and worked to enhance the Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Financing, Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, and Private Activity Bond programs.

In addition to my roles with Brightline and FECR, I led my own transportation firm specializing in rail, transit, and highway projects, providing business support for clients throughout the country, including GE Transportation,

T.Y. Lin International, RailAmerica, and R.J. Corman Railroad Group. I am past President of the Florida Railroad Association and a past Board Member of the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors. I also served on Florida's Strategic Intermodal Transportation Advisory Committee, where I helped shift the State of Florida's focus from solely funding highways to a more multi-modal approach. I was also a founding member of the Florida Intermodal Transportation Association.

The attached letters in support of my nomination highlight my career achievements noted above and illustrate a lifelong commitment to working with all stakeholders when developing rail policy. It is one reason you will see support from Class I, Class II, and commuter railroads; rail associations; labor organizations; Congressional leadership; and other relevant transportation experts. However, I understand that I will be serving in a representative capacity and will ensure that is my focus.

Once again, I would like to reiterate my deep interest in serving on the Passenger Railroad Advisory Committee. My comprehensive background and experience with intercity passenger rail, freight rail, and commuter rail are a natural fit for this committee. Further, my policy experience with USDOT and history of successfully bringing together bipartisan coalitions to work on rail policy will be an asset to the committee. I am uniquely qualified to serve as a member of PRAC and I hope you will consider my nomination.

Lastly, I agree to be responsible for expenses incurred to serve on the PRAC and I can serve immediately upon appointment if selected. If you have any questions, please contact me at 954-234-0650 or husein.cumber@feci.com.

Sincerely,



Husein Cumber
Chief Strategy Officer
Florida East Coast Industries
Phone: 954-234-0650
Email: husein.cumber@feci.com

Letters of Support for the Nomination of Husein Cumber
Docket No. EP 774 (sub-No.1)

1	U.S. Senator Jacky Rosen	State of Nevada
2	U.S. Senator Rick Scott	State of Florida
3	U.S. Senator Tim Scott	State of South Carolina
4	U.S. Representative Sam Graves	Chairman, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
5	U.S. Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz	State of Florida
6	U.S. Representative Mario Diaz-Balart	State of Florida
7	U.S. Representative Lois Frankel	State of Florida
8	U.S. Representative Dina Titus	State of Nevada
9	U.S. Representative Jared Moskowitz	State of Florida
10	U.S. Representative Aaron Bean	State of Florida
11	U.S. Representative Darren Soto	State of Florida
12	U.S. Representative Jim Banks	State of Indiana
13	Treasurer Fiona Ma	State of California
14	Mr. Greg Regan	Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO, President
15	Mr. Quintin Kendall	Former Deputy Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration
16	Mr. David Dech	South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, Executive Director
17	Mr. Terry Hynes	Sidley Austin, Partner
18	Secretary Tracy Larkin	Nevada Department of Transportation
19	Mr. Ananth Prasad	Florida Transportation Builders Association, Former Secretary Florida Department of Transportation
20	Mr. Ray Wolfe	San Bernardino County Transportation Authority, Executive Director
21	Mr. Mark Wilson	Florida Chamber of Commerce, President & CEO
22	Mr. Robert Ledoux	Florida East Coast Railway, General Counsel
23	Mr. Tom Livingston	CSX Transportation, Vice President
24	Mr. Brad Lager	Herzog Enterprises, Chairman & CEO
25	Mr. Chuck Baker	American Short Line and Railroad Association, President
26	Mr. Michael Cahill	Siemens Mobility, President
27	Mr. Robert Slimp	HNTB, Chairman & CEO

United States Senate

COMMITTEES
ARMED SERVICES
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
CHAIR: SUBCOMMITTEE ON TOURISM,
TRADE, AND EXPORT PROMOTION
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL
AFFAIRS
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

February 1, 2024

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

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

Dear Chairman Oberman:

I write in support of the Surface Transportation Board ("Board") providing full and fair consideration to Husein Cumber's nomination to serve as a member of the Board's newly formed Passenger Railroad Advisory Committee ("PRAC").

As Nevada's Senator, I have worked with Mr. Cumber as he began developing a new vision for a high-speed rail system connecting Las Vegas, Nevada with Southern California. Initially proposed to terminate at Victor Valley, California, the new line will now extend into Rancho Cucamonga, a determination I understand that Mr. Cumber and his colleagues made while performing due diligence on the DesertXpress high speed rail project. This resulted in Brightline purchasing the company and renaming it Brightline West.

My office worked directly with Mr. Cumber during the development of the historic *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* which would provide eventual funding for the project. We also collaborated as Brightline West made its way through the environmental permitting process, the grant application process, and other federal approvals. Throughout the development of the project, Mr. Cumber focused on ensuring that both the private and public interests were protected. In five years, Brightline West went from an idea on paper to a project ready to break ground. Under Mr. Cumber's guidance, the project leased the rights-of-way needed from the Nevada Department of Transportation, the Bureau of Land Management, and the California Department of Transportation; secured \$3 billion in federal grant funding; secured all environmental permits; extended the original project scope to Rancho Cucamonga, CA; and galvanized the region behind this transformative project. Nevada could not be more excited for Brightline West, which has come about in large part due to Mr. Cumber's leadership.

Mr. Cumber's background and experience with issues regarding intercity and high-speed passenger rail, freight rail, and commuter rail, and his policy experience from when he served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation all make him extremely qualified to serve as a member of PRAC. I therefore ask that you provide full and fair consideration to his nomination.

Sincerely,



United States Senate

January 22, 2024

Mr. Martin Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

307822

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
January 22, 2024
Part of
Public Record

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 was a member of Florida East Coast Railway's ("FECR") executive team and has a strong background with freight rail. He was integral to reconnecting the FECR freight line with PortMiami, and construction of an intermodal facility at Port Everglades to increase intermodal capabilities throughout the state. He has also been leading the negotiations to introduce commuter rail to the FECR rail corridor.

In addition to his passenger and freight rail experience, Mr. Cumber also served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation ("USDOT") and served both Secretary Norman Mineta and Secretary Mary Peters. In his role, Mr. Cumber had policy responsibility for the Federal Railroad Administration and was instrumental in developing the Congressional language mandating Positive Train Control after the Union Pacific-Metrolink accident.

Mr. Cumber's comprehensive 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 I am pleased to provide my support for his nomination.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott
United States Senator



January 22, 2024

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0012

Dear Honorable 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 is the mind behind the Brightline Florida and Brightline West intercity passenger rail systems. From assembling the rights-of-way, leading the environmental permitting process, securing private activity bond allocations and grants, and stimulating support for the introduction of high-speed rail service in Florida, Nevada, and California, Mr. Cumber understands what is necessary for passenger rail growth in the United States. Brightline Florida has invested \$6 billion of private capital in passenger rail and Brightline West will be investing approximately \$9 billion of private capital. It is imperative for the PRAC to have someone with Mr. Cumber's background of industry transformation represented on their committee.

Previously, Mr. Cumber served as an executive at Florida East Coast Railway. As an executive, he led the overall strategy for the freight business. In this role, he led the negotiations to introduce commuter rail to the FECR rail corridor. In addition to his rail experience, Mr. Cumber served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation ("USDOT") under Secretary Norman Mineta and Secretary Mary Peters. Mr. Cumber was responsible for Federal Railroad Administration and Federal Transit Administration policy, which will be a tremendous benefit to the committee.

It is evident through Mr. Cumber's background and experience with issues involving high-speed, intercity, freight, and commuter rail, coupled with his USDOT policy experience, that he is uniquely qualified to serve as a member of PRAC. I am pleased to provide my strong support for his nomination.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Scott", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Scott
United States Senator

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 25, 2024

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

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

Dear Chairman Oberman,

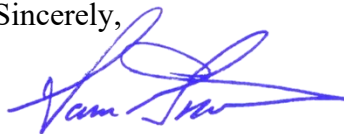
I am writing to express my strong support for Husein Cumber's nomination to serve as a member of the Surface Transportation Board's newly formed Passenger Railroad Advisory Committee ("PRAC"). As Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I have worked extensively with Mr. Cumber to develop better rail transportation policy for this country.

Mr. Cumber is a visionary of the Brightline Florida and Brightline West intercity passenger rail systems. From assembling the rights-of-way, leading the environmental permitting processes, securing private activity bond allocations and grants, and galvanizing support for the introduction of high-speed rail service in Florida, Nevada, and California, Mr. Cumber understands the challenges of and opportunities for passenger rail growth in this country. Excitement exists for a new model of passenger rail that does not require taxpayer subsidies and is private sector owned and operated. To date, Brightline Florida has invested \$6 billion of private capital and Brightline West plans to invest approximately \$9 billion in private funding. It is essential to have someone with Mr. Cumber's unique background and innovative perspective represented on the PRAC.

Mr. Cumber's qualifying experience extends beyond the Brightline ventures. He previously served as an executive at Florida East Coast Railway (FECR), where he led overall strategy for the freight business, and oversaw negotiations to introduce commuter rail to the FECR rail corridor. Additionally, Mr. Cumber served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) under Secretary Norman Mineta and Secretary Mary Peters. In that role, Mr. Cumber was responsible for Federal Railroad Administration and Federal Transit Administration policy, which is background that will tremendously benefit the PRAC.

Mr. Cumber's knowledge and experience with high-speed, intercity, freight, and commuter rail, coupled with his strong DOT policy experience, make him uniquely qualified to serve as a member of PRAC. I am pleased to provide my support for his nomination. Should you have any questions or require additional information please contact Jack Ruddy, Majority Staff Director, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, at Jack.Ruddy@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Sam Graves
Member of Congress

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
25TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

CO-CHAIR,
DEMOCRATIC STEERING & POLICY
COMMITTEE

DEMOCRATIC DEAN & CO-CHAIR,
FLORIDA DELEGATION



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED
AGENCIES
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE
WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT

January 31, 2024

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

Mr. Gautam Raghavan,
Assistant to the President & Director of
Presidential Personnel
White House Presidential Personnel Office
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20502

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

Dear Chairman Oberman,

I am writing to express my strong 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"). I have personally known Mr. Cumber for decades, going back to my service in the Florida House of Representatives.

Mr. Cumber has been involved with the freight, commuter, and intercity passenger rail industries which makes him a perfect fit for the PRAC. The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority ("SFRTA") operates the Tri-Rail commuter rail service between Palm Beach County, Broward County, and Miami-Dade County. It is a key transportation asset to move people to and from work in a cost-effective way. SFRTA expanded its Tri-Rail operations on January 13, 2024, into downtown Miami by accessing the Florida East Coast Rail (FECR) corridor. This shared corridor now has freight, intercity, and commuter rail operations.

Mr. Cumber was instrumental in bringing this service into downtown Miami. In 2012, he led the effort to apply for a federal grant that connected the South Florida Rail Corridor and the FECR rail corridor. Mr. Cumber negotiated an access agreement to allow Tri-Rail trains to serve the Brightline MiamiCentral station for a nominal fee to enhance both systems. Had this vision not been executed upon starting in 2012, Tri-Rail would not have had the ability to serve downtown Miami through a shared station. My constituents in Broward and Miami-Dade are a direct beneficiary of this vision.

WASSERMANSchultz.HOUSE.GOV

270 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0923
(202) 225-7931

2600 HOLLYWOOD BLVD.
HOLLYWOOD, FL 35020
(954) 845-1179

777 SAWGRASS CORPORATE PARKWAY
SUNRISE, FL 33325
(954) 845-1179

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
25TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

CO-CHAIR,
DEMOCRATIC STEERING & POLICY
COMMITTEE

DEMOCRATIC DEAN & CO-CHAIR,
FLORIDA DELEGATION



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED
AGENCIES
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE
WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT

Prior to starting Brightline Florida, Mr. Cumber was the Executive Vice President for Corporate Development at Florida East Coast Railway (“FECR”). The freight rail line is a key asset and Mr. Cumber was instrumental in ensuring that the communities along the east coast of Florida always had an advocate for their needs and challenges. His strong background with freight rail allowed him to appreciate the relationship between freight and passenger rail companies when developing Brightline to ensure the interest of both industries were protected. Mr. Cumber is one of the few people who has been an executive at both a freight and passenger rail company that operates in a shared corridor. This will give him a unique perspective while serving on the PRAC.

In addition to his passenger and freight rail experience, Mr. Cumber served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation (“USDOT”) and served both Secretary Norman Mineta and Secretary Mary Peters. 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.

If you have any questions please contact Tracie Pough at (202) 225-7931 or tracie.pough@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Wasserman Schultz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "S" at the end.

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

WASSERMANSCHULTZ.HOUSE.GOV

270 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0923
(202) 225-7931

2600 HOLLYWOOD BLVD.
HOLLYWOOD, FL 35020
(954) 845-1179

777 SAWGRASS CORPORATE PARKWAY
SUNRISE, FL 33325
(954) 845-1179

MARIO DIAZ-BALART

26TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

STATE FOREIGN OPERATIONS,
AND RELATED PROGRAMS
CHAIRMAN

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

DEFENSE

DEPUTY WHIP

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CONFERENCE
CHAIRMAN

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0926

January 29, 2024

374 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4211
FAX: (202) 225-8576

DISTRICT OFFICES:
8669 N.W. 36TH STREET
SUITE 100
DORAL, FL 33166
(305) 470-8555
FAX: (305) 470-8575
4715 GOLDEN GATE PARKWAY
SUITE ONE
NAPLES, FL 34116
(239) 348-1620
FAX: (239) 348-3569

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

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

Dear Chairman Oberman,

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

Prior to starting Brightline Florida, Mr. Cumber was the Executive Vice President for Corporate Development at Florida East Coast Railway ("FECR"). His strong background with freight rail allowed him to appreciate the relationship between freight and passenger rail companies when developing Brightline to ensure the interest of both industries were protected. Mr. Cumber is one of the few people who has been an executive at both companies operating in a shared corridor, which will give him a unique perspective while serving on the PRAC.

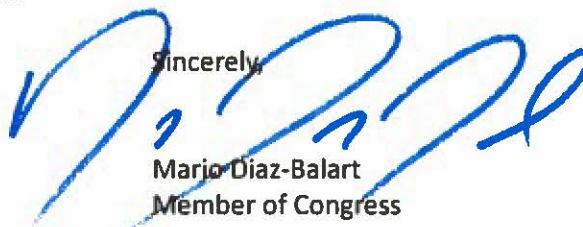
Mr. Cumber was also a key architect of reconnecting the FECR freight line to PortMiami. This was a critical project for South Florida, as it eliminated thousands of trucks driving through downtown Miami and throughout my district. Recognizing the need for expansion of PortMiami, I have fought to secure federal dollars for PortMiami to expand its cargo capacity and the partnership Mr. Cumber created between the freight railroad and the seaport stands as an example of his ability to execute projects.

In addition to his passenger and freight rail experience, Mr. Cumber served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation ("USDOT") and served both Secretary Norman Mineta and Secretary Mary Peters. In his role, Mr. Cumber had policy responsibility for the Federal Railroad Administration and Federal Transit Administration. My staff and I interacted with Mr. Cumber during his time at USDOT and found him to be responsive to Florida's transportation needs and challenges.

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.

If you have any questions please contact my Senior Legislative Assistant, Elizabeth Dos Santos at 202-225-4211 or Elizabeth.DosSantos@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress

LOIS FRANKEL

22ND DISTRICT, FLORIDA

WASHINGTON OFFICE

2305 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-9890

DISTRICT OFFICE

7499 W. ATLANTIC AVE #206
DELRAY BEACH, FL 33446
(561) 998-9045

frankel.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0922

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES, EDUCATION

STATE AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S
CAUCUS
CHAIR

WOMEN, PEACE, AND
SECURITY CAUCUS
CO-CHAIR

January 30, 2024

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

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 newly formed Passenger Railroad Advisory Committee (PRAC).

Mr. Cumber has been involved with the freight, commuter, and intercity passenger rail industries, which makes him a perfect fit for the PRAC. Over the past decade, he has led the stakeholder outreach for the Brightline project, overseen the local, state, and federal regulatory and environmental processes, negotiated right-of way agreement with public entities, and secured public and private funds to construct the first private intercity passenger rail system in this country in decades.

In addition, the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) operates the Tri-Rail commuter rail service between Palm Beach County, Broward County, and Miami-Dade County. It is a key transportation asset to move people to and from work in a cost-effective way. SFRTA expanded its Tri-Rail operations on January 13, 2024, into downtown Miami by accessing the Florida East Coast Rail (FECR) corridor. Mr. Cumber was instrumental in bringing this service into downtown Miami. In 2012, he led the effort to apply for a federal grant that connected the South Florida Rail Corridor and the FECR rail corridor. Mr. Cumber negotiated an access agreement to allow Tri-Rail trains to serve the Brightline MiamiCentral station for a nominal fee to enhance both systems.

Prior to starting Brightline Florida, Mr. Cumber was the Executive Vice President for Corporate Development at Florida East Coast Railway (FECR). His strong background with freight rail allowed him to appreciate the relationship between freight and passenger rail companies when developing Brightline to ensure the interest of both industries were protected. Mr. Cumber is one of the few people who has been an executive at both a freight and passenger rail company that operates in a shared corridor, giving him a unique perspective.

In addition to his passenger and freight rail experience, Mr. Cumber served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and served both Secretary Norman Mineta and Secretary Mary Peters. 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.

Consistent with the ethics requirements of the U.S. House of Representatives, I urge full and fair consideration of Mr. Cumber's nomination. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can answer any questions or provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lois Frankel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 1, 2024

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

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

Dear Chairman Oberman,

I write to share my strong support for Florida East Coast Industries' CEO Husein Cumber's application to serve as a member of the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) newly formed Passenger Railroad Advisory Committee (PRAC).

My staff and I have worked with Mr. Cumber as his company continues to develop the Brightline West high-speed rail system that is planned to connect Las Vegas, Nevada, and Southern California. This will be the first system of its kind in the United States thanks in large part to a \$3 billion investment from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

In just five years, Brightline West has gone from an idea on paper to a shovel-ready project due to its ability, under Mr. Cumber's guidance, to secure leases from multiple levels of government on rights-of-way, successfully obtain funding, meet conditions for environmental permits, and reach agreements with local labor organizations to ensure good-paying, union jobs. Mr. Cumber has kept my office informed of these developments and has regularly provided updates on the project's progress.

Brightline has risen to the forefront of the United States' rail renaissance under Mr. Cumber's leadership. His familiarity with issues regarding intercity and high-speed passenger rail and his policy experience as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation from 2007 to 2008 make him uniquely qualified to serve as a member of PRAC. Accordingly, I respectfully request that your office give his application fair and full consideration.

If you require further information, do not hesitate to contact Mitch Moonier in my office at (202) 225-5965. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dina Titus".

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

JARED MOSKOWITZ
23RD DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND
ACCOUNTABILITY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0923

1130 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0923
(202) 225-3001

9500 WEST SAMPLE ROAD
CORAL SPRINGS, FL 33065
(754) 240-6330

January 18, 2024

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

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

Dear Chairman Oberman:

I am writing to express my strong support for Mr. Husein Cumber's nomination to serve as a member of the Surface Transportation Board's ("Board") newly formed Passenger Railroad Advisory Committee ("PRAC"). I have known Mr. Cumber for several years, since my time in the Florida House of Representatives and during my service as a Broward County Commissioner.

Mr. Cumber has been involved with the freight, commuter, and intercity passenger rail industries for decades, which makes him a perfect fit for the PRAC. The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority ("SFRTA") operates the Tri-Rail commuter rail service between Palm Beach County, Broward County, and Miami-Dade County. It is a key transportation asset to move people to and from work cost-effectively. SFRTA expanded its Tri-Rail operations on January 13, 2024, into downtown Miami by accessing the Florida East Coast Rail (FECR) corridor. This shared corridor now has freight, intercity, and commuter rail operations.

Mr. Cumber was instrumental in bringing this service into downtown Miami. In 2012, he led the effort to apply for a federal grant that connected the South Florida Rail Corridor and the FECR rail corridor. Mr. Cumber negotiated an access agreement to allow Tri-Rail trains to serve the Brightline MiamiCentral station for a nominal fee to enhance both systems. Had this vision not been executed upon starting in 2012, Tri-Rail would not have had the ability to serve downtown Miami through a shared station. My constituents in Broward are direct beneficiaries of this vision.

Before starting Brightline Florida, Mr. Cumber was the Executive Vice President for Corporate Development at Florida East Coast Railway ("FECR"). The freight rail line is a key asset, and Mr. Cumber was instrumental in ensuring that the communities along the east coast of Florida always had an advocate for their needs and challenges. His strong background with freight rail allowed him to appreciate the relationship between freight and passenger rail companies when developing Brightline to ensure the interests of both industries were protected. Mr. Cumber is one of the few people who has been an executive at a freight and passenger rail company operating in a shared corridor. This will give him a unique perspective while serving on the PRAC.

In addition to his passenger and freight rail experience, Mr. Cumber served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation (“USDOT”). He served both Secretary Norman Mineta and Secretary Mary Peters. Mr. Cumber’s background and experience with issues regarding intercity passenger rail, freight rail, and commuter rail, as well as his policy experience with USDOT, make him uniquely qualified to serve as a member of PRAC.

I appreciate your full and fair consideration of Mr. Cumber’s application, consistent with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations. If you have further questions, please contact my Chief of Staff, Mrs. Lale Morrison, at Lale.Morrison@mail.house.gov or (202) 225-3001.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jared Moskowitz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress

AARON BEAN
4TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD,
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0904

1239 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0904
(202) 225-0123

501 CENTRE STREET
SUITE 107
FERNANDINA BEACH, FL 32034
(904) 557-9550

117 W DUVAL STREET #230
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202
(904) 319-9433

January 18, 2024

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

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

Dear Chairman Oberman,

I write to express my support for Mr. Husein Cumber's nomination to serve as a member of the Surface Transportation Board's newly formed Passenger Railroad Advisory Committee (PRAC). As a member of both the Florida House of Representatives and Florida Senate, I have worked with Mr. Cumber for well over a decade.

Prior to starting Brightline Florida, Mr. Cumber was the Executive Vice President for Corporate Development at Florida East Coast Railway. The freight rail line is a key asset for Northeast Florida, and Mr. Cumber was instrumental in working closely with the communities along the east coast of Florida. His appreciation of the relationship between freight and passenger rail companies ensured both industries were protected when developing Brightline. Mr. Cumber has unique experience as an executive at both companies operating in a shared corridor, which will give him a valuable perspective while serving on the PRAC.

In addition to his experience in the private sector, Mr. Cumber served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and served both Secretary Norman Mineta and Secretary Mary Peters. In this role, Mr. Cumber was responsible for the policies within the Federal Railroad Administration and Federal Transit Administration.

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. I hope you give him every consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact my office at (202) 225-0123.

Sincerely,



Aaron Bean
Member of Congress



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 26, 2024

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

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

Dear Chairman Oberman,

I write to express my strong 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 is one of the visionaries of Brightline and has played an integral role on every aspect of the project—including negotiating a right-of-way lease with the state of Florida; to secure funding for an Orlando Intermodal Station that resulted in a hub where Brightline, a future commuter rail line, and a new 120-gate terminal will all connect; to secure all the environmental and construction approvals; to engaging statewide stakeholders and elected officials to garner support for the project; to developing a vision to enhance existing transportation systems in Florida to take advantage of the \$6 billion Brightline investment. I have been working with Mr. Cumber and his colleagues to now expand the system from Orlando to Tampa.

Prior to starting Brightline, Mr. Cumber was the Executive Vice President for Corporate Development at Florida East Coast Railway ("FECR"). The freight rail line is a key asset in Florida for the efficient movement of goods. His extensive experience with freight rail enabled him to understand the relationship between freight and passenger rail companies when developing Brightline to ensure the interest of both industries was protected. Mr. Cumber is one of the very few people who has been an executive at both a freight and passenger rail company that operates in a shared corridor. This will give him a unique perspective while serving on the PRAC.

In addition to his passenger and freight rail experience, Mr. Cumber served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation ("USDOT") and served under both Secretary Norman Mineta and Secretary Mary Peters. Mr. Cumber's background and experience on issues

regarding intercity passenger rail, freight rail, commuter rail, and his policy experience with USDOT uniquely qualifies him to serve as a member of PRAC.

If you have any questions, please contact Alexi Hernandez Alvarez at (202) 225-9889 or alexi.hernandezalvarez@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1403

January 24, 2024

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

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 was heavily involved in the development of the Brightline Florida and Brightline West intercity passenger rail systems. He has also previously served in valuable leadership roles such as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation ("USDOT") and as an executive for the Florida East Coast Railway. Mr. Cumber's background and experience with issues involving high-speed, intercity, freight, and commuter rail, coupled with his USDOT policy experience, make him uniquely qualified to serve on this committee.

As Congress deliberates passenger rail issues, Mr. Cumber is someone I lean on for advice. I believe it's important to have someone of his caliber and experience represented on PRAC. I hope you will give his application every consideration. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact my staff at 260-702-4750 or tanner.spencer@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Banks".

Jim Banks
Member of Congress



FIONA MA, CPA
TREASURER
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

January 24, 2024

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

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

Dear Chairman Oberman,

I am writing to express my strong 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"). I personally have been an advocate for high-speed rail since my time as a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and have supported the development of the industry.

I first met Mr. Cumber when he was working on the team looking at the DesertXpress project, which has now been renamed as Brightline West. We worked together to secure private activity bond allocations for Brightline West, which included increasing the volume cap in the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill. From my initial interaction, I have found Mr. Cumber to be focused on ensuring that both the private and public interests were protected throughout the development of the project. In five years, Brightline West has gone from an idea to a project about to break ground. Under Mr. Cumber's guidance, the project has leased the rights-of-way needed from the Bureau of Land Management, the California Department of Transportation and the Nevada Department of Transportation; secured \$3.025 billion in grant funding; secured all its environmental permits; extended the original project scope to Rancho Cucamonga, CA; and galvanized the region behind this transformative project.

I am particularly appreciative of the jobs Brightline West will bring to both California and Nevada. Brightline West could be the first true high speed rail system in the country. I had the opportunity to experience firsthand what was built in Florida and Brightline's passenger rail service elevates the experience of and expectations for the entire passenger rail industry. Mr. Cumber's role in guiding the Florida project from concept to construction served as a template for the Las Vegas to Southern California project.

California is excited to be the location Brightline chose for its second project. 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 I am pleased to provide support for his nomination. If you have any questions, please contact me at Fiona.Ma@treasurer.ca.gov.

In Peace & Friendship,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Fiona Ma', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the left.

FIONA MA, CPA
California State Treasurer

February 2, 2024

The Honorable Martin Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E St., SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Chair Oberman:

On behalf of the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD) and the entirety of freight rail labor, we write in support of Husein Cumber's application to serve on the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC) for a seat reserved for a representative from existing intercity passenger rail operators other than Amtrak, or developers of new intercity passenger rail lines other than Amtrak. Husein has a unique combination of experience working with both freight and passenger railroads in both the public and private sectors. Given the PRAC's heavy focus on the interactions and potential conflicts between passenger railroads and host railroads, Husein's credentials make him an ideal candidate for the PRAC seat.

Husein currently serves as the Chief Strategy Officer for Florida East Coast Industries, the indirect parent company to Brightline Holdings. In his current role, Husein has played a central part in the development of Brightline Florida's Orlando to Miami rail line, which is the first privately owned and operated intercity passenger rail system in the United States in over 100 years. Husein has also been closely involved with the Brightline West high-speed rail line project that will connect Las Vegas, NV to Los Angeles, CA and be the first privately owned true high-speed rail line when it opens before the 2028 Olympics. Prior to his current role, Husein worked for the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) from 2005-2009 where he served as an Assistant to the Secretary for Policy and as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation and became an expert in transportation policy. During his tenure as Deputy Chief of Staff, Husein was part of the leadership team that oversaw daily operations of the USDOT's 60,000 employees and managed a \$67 billion budget. He also previously was President of H.A. Cumber & Company where he had several rail focused clients, including G.E. Transportation and R.J. Corman Railroad Group,

Rail Labor's relationship with Husein allows the coalition to place trust in him and support him through the nomination process. On his own accord, Husein sought out and fomented relationships with all stakeholders, including rail labor, during the Brightline West project. Unions are too often an afterthought to the railroads and their plans. Instead, Husein treated Rail Labor as a valuable partner instead of an adversary or a box to check off. As a direct result of his efforts, Rail Labor and Brightline West entered the first of its kind Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) covering the operations and maintenance of the Brightline West high-speed rail trains. Our MOU is novel, as it honors workers' right to organize and ensures that employees of both Brightline West and its contractors will be covered by the bedrock of federal rail labor statutes, namely the Railway Labor Act, the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act and the Railroad Retirement Act. In fact, the Brightline West MOU is so novel that it established the model for Rail Labor's partnerships with other high-speed rail projects in the United States, including the subsequent MOU that Rail Labor reached with the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CAHSRA) for the California high-speed rail project.

A renaissance of passenger rail is unfolding in the United States, with a record amount of interest and funding in expanding service. Part of that renaissance is due to Brightline's successful operation in Florida as well as its efforts to advance the Brightline West high-speed rail project. Given Brightline's key role in expanding

Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO

815 Black Lives Matter Plaza, NW / 4th Floor / Washington, DC 20006

Tel: 202.628.9262 / www.ttd.org

Greg Regan, President / Shari Semelsberger, Secretary-Treasurer

passenger rail in the U.S. and its expertise balancing passenger and freight rail operations in Florida, we believe it is critical that Brightline has a representative on the PRAC. On behalf of the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO, we give full support to Husein Cumber serving on the PRAC for a seat reserved for a representative from existing intercity passenger rail operators other than Amtrak, or developers of new intercity passenger rail lines other than Amtrak.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Regan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Greg Regan, President
Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO

Quintin C. Kendall
3256 Riverside Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32205
(804) 874-9007 * qckendall@gmail.com

January 19, 2024

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman Oberman:

I am writing to nominate Husein Cumber, Chief Strategy Officer of Florida East Coast Industries, to the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC), representing existing intercity passenger rail operators other than Amtrak.

I met Husein in 2005 when we both served as aides to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta. Later, as Chief and Deputy Chief of Staff, we would work together closely in managing the immediate office of Secretary Mary E. Peters and supporting her oversight of the entire Department of Transportation (USDOT).

At USDOT, Husein played a vital role in the federal response to Hurricane Katrina and the Minnesota I-35 Bridge collapse. Further, his penchant for policy was on display as he helped coordinate Administration efforts to relieve aviation congestion and reform investment in the federal surface transportation program.

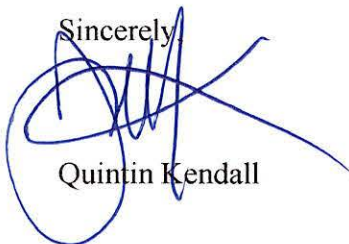
Later, as Deputy Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), I had the opportunity to engage frequently with Husein as FECI worked to bring the Brightline inter-city rail project to completion and navigate the FRA's regulatory and environmental processes for Brightline West.

As a direct result of Husein's deep understanding of federal transportation policy, his long-standing relationship with key policymakers across the country, and his relentless perseverance and positive attitude, Brightline overcame the naysayers to initiate the first privately operated passenger rail service in the United States in over a century.

Husein is a skilled communicator and consensus builder who always keeps projects and processes on track through his keen focus on the big picture. The PRAC will greatly benefit from his involvement in its critical mission of advising the STB on improving our nation's passenger rail service.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Quintin Kendall



**SOUTH FLORIDA
REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION
AUTHORITY**

801 NW 33rd Street | Pompano Beach, Florida 33064 | P 954-942-7245 | F 954-788-7961 | www.sfrta.fl.gov

January 17, 2024

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

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").

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority ("SFRTA") operates the Tri-Rail commuter rail service between Palm Beach County, Broward County, and Miami-Dade County. We have operated on the South Florida Rail Corridor ("SFRC") since the 1980s. However, SFRTA expanded its Tri-Rail operations on January 13 into downtown Miami by accessing the Florida East Coast Rail (FECR) corridor. This shared corridor now has freight, intercity, and commuter rail operations.

Mr. Cumber was instrumental in bringing this service into downtown Miami. In 2012, he led the effort to apply for a federal grant that connected the South Florida Rail Corridor and the FECR rail corridor. Mr. Cumber negotiated an access agreement with my predecessor to allow Tri-Rail trains to serve the Brightline MiamiCentral station for a nominal fee to enhance both systems. This also led to a historic agreement between the City of Miami, Miami-Dade County, the local Community Redevelopment Agency, the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust, and other public agencies to contribute funding to expand the Brightline station to include platforms for the future commuter rail service. Had this vision not been executed upon starting in 2012, Tri-Rail would have had no ability to serve downtown Miami through a shared station.

Mr. Cumber's background and experience with issues regarding intercity passenger rail, freight rail, commuter rail, and his policy experience gained by serving as Deputy Chief of Staff at USDOT make him uniquely qualified to serve as a member of PRAC. More importantly, it is this background that allowed him to partner with SFRTA to envision and execute a larger passenger rail system in South Florida.

If you have any questions please contact me at (954) 788-7926 or dechd@sfrta.fl.gov.

Sincerely,

David W. Dech
Executive Director



SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP
1501 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005
+1 202 736 8000
+1 202 736 8711 FAX

AMERICA • ASIA PACIFIC • EUROPE

+1 202 736 8198
THYNES@SIDLEY.COM

January 23, 2024

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

Re: Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No.1), Establishment of the Passenger Rail
Advisory Committee

Dear Chairman Oberman,

I write to express my strong endorsement of Husein Cumber's candidacy to serve as a member of the Surface Transportation Board's ("Board's") newly created Passenger Railroad Advisory Committee ("PRAC").

I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Cumber for more than a decade in connection with the development of Brightline's current (and proposed) passenger rail services. Mr. Cumber was instrumental in the efforts of Brightline Florida (formerly All Aboard Florida) to introduce intercity passenger rail service between Miami and Orlando, Florida, which came to fruition with the opening of through service to Orlando in September 2023. He continues to guide Brightline's plans to extend that service beyond Orlando to Tampa, Florida.

Mr. Cumber has likewise played a critical role in the development of Brightline West's proposed high speed passenger rail line between southern California and Las Vegas. In particular, he participated in the process that resulted in Brightline's acquisition of the former DesertXpress company, and developed successful strategies to secure the required environmental and regulatory permits and funding for the project. As a result of those efforts, Brightline West is preparing to break ground on the project this year, with the goal of introducing America's first true high speed passenger rail service in 2028.

Mr. Cumber also possesses experience in the freight rail sector, having served as a member of Florida East Coast Railway's ("FECR's") executive team. He was instrumental in FECR's successful efforts to reconnect the FECR freight line with PortMiami, and to construct an intermodal facility at Port Everglades (a project that significantly enhanced FECR's intermodal rail service to points throughout the state). He has also played a major role in the negotiations to introduce commuter rail service to the shared FECR-Brightline rail corridor.

SIDLEY

Chairman Martin Oberman

January 23, 2024

Page 2

In addition to this private sector experience, Mr. Cumber served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation (“USDOT”), serving both Secretary Norman Mineta and Secretary Mary Peters. In that role, Mr. Cumber had policy responsibility for the Federal Railroad Administration and was instrumental in developing the legislation mandating Positive Train Control on rail lines that carry passengers and certain hazardous commodities.

As the foregoing demonstrates, Mr. Cumber possesses comprehensive knowledge and experience with a wide range of issues relating to intercity passenger, freight and commuter rail services. Based on his background, and my experience working with him, I believe that Mr. Cumber is uniquely qualified to serve as a member of PRAC and that he will make an important contribution to the Committee’s work. I urge you to act favorably on his nomination.

If you have any questions please let me know (my contact information appears above).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terence M. Hynes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first name.

Terence M. Hynes



JOE LOMBARDO
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
1263 S. Stewart Street
Carson City, Nevada 89712

TRACY LARKIN THOMASON, P.E.
Director

January 16, 2024

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

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

Dear Chairman Oberman,

I am writing to express my strong 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").

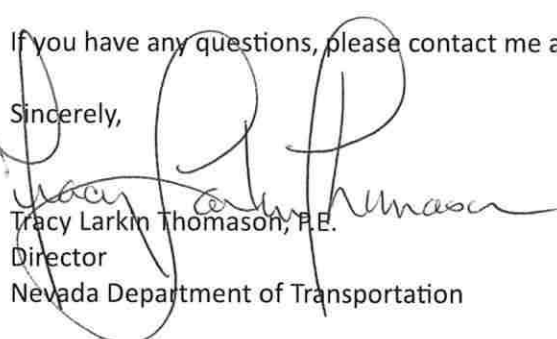
I first met Mr. Cumber when he was performing the due diligence on the DesertXpress high speed rail project, which resulted in Brightline purchasing the company and renaming it Brightline West. From my initial interaction, I have found Mr. Cumber to be focused on ensuring that both the private and public interests were protected throughout the development of the project. In five years, Brightline West has gone from an idea to a project about to break ground. Under Mr. Cumber's guidance, the project has leased the rights-of-way needed from my agency, the Bureau of Land Management, and the California Department of Transportation; secured \$3.025 billion in grant funding; secured all its environmental permits; extended the original project scope to Rancho Cucamonga, CA; and galvanized the region behind this transformative project.

Brightline West will be the first true high speed rail system in the country. I had the opportunity to view firsthand what was built in Florida and Brightline's passenger rail service elevates the experience of and expectations for the entire passenger rail industry. Mr. Cumber's role in guiding that project from development to construction served as a template for the Las Vegas to southern California project. Nevada is excited to be the location Brightline chose for its second project.

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 ASLRRRA is pleased to provide its support for his nomination.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (775) 888-7440 or tlarkin@dot.nv.gov.

Sincerely,


Tracy Larkin Thomason, P.E.
Director
Nevada Department of Transportation



FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION, Inc.

1007 E. DeSoto Park Drive • Tallahassee, Florida 32301
TEL: (850) 942-1404 • FAX: (850) 942-5632 • WEB: WWW.FTBA.COM



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JOE ANDERSON III
Secretary-Treasurer
KEITH WAUGH
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ANANTH PRASAD
President

January 22, 2024

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

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

DIRECTORS

JOE ANDERSON III
RUSTY BIRCHALL
JACK CALANDROS
DANNY CARR
JIM DAVIS JR.
KRISTINA DE MOYA
BOB FLOWERS
SCOTT FOWLER
MATT GRIFFIN
DANIEL HALLEY
JOHN HOOPER
RICK KONTOS
LEIGH LILLA
CURTIS LONG
DONALD LONG
BRENT MARLEY
PAT MCGRIFF
BOBBY NAIK
MATT PERSING
ENRIQUE TOMEU
JARRED WILLIFORD

Dear Chairman Oberman,

I am writing to express my strong 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"). I have personally known Mr. Cumber for decades and interacted with him extensively during my time as the Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation ("FDOT").

Brightline Florida was started during my tenure at the FDOT and I worked with Mr. Cumber on every aspect of the project. We negotiated a right-of-way lease of state property, worked on funding an Orlando Intermodal Station that Brightline connects into, engaged stakeholders and elected officials to galvanize support for the project, and developed a vision to enhance exiting transportation systems to take advantage of the Brightline investment.

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority ("SFRTA") operates the Tri-Rail commuter rail service between Palm Beach County, Broward County, and Miami-Dade County. It is a key transportation asset to move people to and from work in a cost-effective way. FDOT owns the right-of-way and CSX operates a freight service in the same corridor. SFRTA expanded its Tri-Rail operations on January 13, 2024, into downtown Miami by accessing the Florida East Coast Rail (FECR) corridor. This shared corridor now has freight, intercity, and commuter rail operations.

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

HAPPY ALTER
LOU BUENAVENTURA
KRISTY HERNANDEZ

DISTRICT COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

District No. 1
NICHOLAS GEORGI
District No. 2
TODD VENCIL
District No. 3
JAMIE SAALFIELD
District No. 4
DAVID WILSON
District No. 5
PHIL IRELAND
District No. 6
DAVID ERKELENS
District No. 7
BOB CLARK
Member At-Large
TOMMY BALL
Member At-Large
MIKE SHEA

Mr. Cumber was instrumental in bringing this service into downtown Miami. In 2012, he and I led the effort to apply for a federal grant that connected the South Florida Rail Corridor and the FECR rail corridor. FDOT was a funding partner in this project. Mr. Cumber negotiated an access agreement to allow Tri-Rail trains to serve the Brightline MiamiCentral station for a nominal fee to enhance both systems. Had this vision not been executed upon starting in 2012, Tri-Rail would not have had the ability to serve downtown Miami through a shared station.

Chairman Oberman

Page 2

January 22, 2024

Mr. Cumber was a key architect of reconnecting the FECR freight line to PortMiami. This was an important project for FDOT because it eliminates thousands of trucks driving through downtown Miami and the local road system. It also complemented the deep dredge project FDOT funded for PortMiami. The strong business relationship that now exists between the freight railroad and the seaport stands as an example of his ability to execute visionary projects.

In addition to his passenger and freight rail experience, Mr. Cumber served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation ("USDOT") and served both Secretary Norman Mineta and Secretary Mary Peters. Me and my FDOT colleagues relied on Mr. Cumber for policy advice during this time. 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.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (850) 942-1405 or aprasad@ftba.com.

Sincerely,



Ananth Prasad, P.E.
President

January 16, 2024

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

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

Dear Chairman Oberman:

I am writing to express my strong 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).

Serving more than 2.1 million San Bernardino County residents, the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) is responsible for cooperative regional planning and furthering an efficient multi-modal transportation system countywide. SBCTA administers the half-cent transportation sales tax approved by voters in 1989 and renewed in 2004, and supports rail and bus transportation investments, deployment of zero-emission transportation offerings, freeway and interchange improvements, funding for regional and local roads, railroad grade separation projects, an extensive call box and freeway service patrol program necessary to provide emergency coverage over the largest county in the contiguous United States, ridesharing, congestion management efforts, and planning studies.

I first met Mr. Cumber as he was developing a new vision for a high-speed rail system between Las Vegas, Nevada and the Victor Valley in California. While performing due diligence on the DesertXpress high speed rail project, the predecessor project which resulted in Brightline purchasing the company and renaming it Brightline West, Mr. Cumber and his colleagues were evaluating the best alignment for the system. They ultimately decided to move the project into the median of Interstate 15 (I-15). It was at this moment that Mr. Cumber and I envisioned an electrified high-speed rail system that would extend deeper into San Bernardino County and connect to the Metrolink system in Rancho Cucamonga by continuing further south in the I-15 corridor.

From my initial interaction, I have found Mr. Cumber to be focused on ensuring that both the private and public interests were protected throughout the development of the project. In five years, Brightline West has gone from an idea on paper to a project ready to break ground. Under Mr. Cumber's guidance, the project has leased the rights-of-way needed from my agency, the Nevada Department of Transportation, the Bureau of Land Management, and the California Department of Transportation; secured \$3.025 billion in grant funding; obtained all its environmental permits; extended the original project scope to Rancho Cucamonga; and galvanized the region behind this transformative investment.

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The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
January 16, 2024
Page 2

Brightline West will be the first true high speed rail system in the country. Late last year, I had the opportunity to experience their operations in Florida. I can state emphatically that Brightline's passenger rail service elevates the experience of, and expectations for, the entire passenger rail industry. Mr. Cumber's role in guiding that project from concept to construction served as a template for the Las Vegas to Southern California project. San Bernardino County is excited to be the location Brightline chose for its second project.

Considering the key role Mr. Cumber played in bringing this system to the point of construction readiness in a short five years, when the predecessor project languished for decades, speaks volumes to his visioning and ability to identify and catalyze necessary resources to accomplish specific goals. In this case, the task was clearly monumental, yet he persevered and the project will break ground in the next several months. 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 I am pleased to provide support for his nomination.

If you have any questions please contact me at (909) 884-8276 or rwolfe@gosbcta.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ray Wolfe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Raymond W. Wolfe, PhD
Executive Director
San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA)



136 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Phone: (850) 521-1200
Fax: (850) 521-1203

www.floridachamber.com

January 24, 2024

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

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

Dear Chairman Oberman,

I am writing to express my strong 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").

The Florida Chamber is focused on Florida's economy and improving our infrastructure for over 2.8 million residents and 40 million more annual visitors by 2030. Simply put, we need to make the right long-term decisions and investments now and people like Mr. Cumber understand and champion that way of thinking.

Mr. Cumber has been on our Board of Directors since launching Brightline Florida and the Florida Chamber has been an important partner in the intercity passenger rail system's development. That has given me a front row seat to Mr. Cumber's role on every aspect of the project—from negotiating a right-of-way lease for state property; to securing funding for an Orlando Intermodal Station that resulted in a hub where Brightline, a future commuter rail line, and a new 120-gate terminal will connect into; to securing all the environmental and construction approvals; to engaging statewide stakeholders and elected officials to galvanize support for the project; to finally developing a vision to enhance existing transportation systems in Florida to take advantage of the \$6 billion Brightline investment.

Mr. Cumber was also a key architect of reconnecting the FECR freight line to PortMiami. This was an important project for the Florida Chamber because dredging PortMiami was a key policy goal from our Trade and Logistics study completed in the 2010s. The strong business relationship that now exists between the freight railroad and the seaport stands as an example of his ability to execute visionary projects.

In addition to his passenger and freight rail experience, Mr. Cumber served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation ("USDOT") and served both Secretary Norman Mineta and Secretary Mary Peters. 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.

I have high confidence in Mr. Cumber's qualifications and has our full support for these important efforts. If you have any questions, please contact me at 850-591-1209 or mwilson@flchamber.com.

Sincerely,



Mark Wilson
President & CEO

Robert B. Ledoux, Esquire
Senior Vice President,
General Counsel & Corporate Secretary

January 25, 2024

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

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").

Prior to starting Brightline Florida, Mr. Cumber was the Executive Vice President for Corporate Development at Florida East Coast Railway ("FECR") where we worked together to implement many capital projects along the rail corridor. His strong background with freight rail allowed him to appreciate the relationship between freight and passenger rail companies when developing Brightline to ensure the interest of both industries were protected. Mr. Cumber is one of the few people who has been an executive at both companies operating in a shared corridor. This will provide a unique perspective to the PRAC. Mr. Cumber was a key architect of a Joint Use Agreement for the rail corridor and understands that future growth must be mutually beneficial to both freight and passenger rail systems operating in a shared corridor.

Ensuring that existing freight operations would not be negatively impacted when introducing Brightline into the corridor was important. In addition to his passenger and freight rail experience, Mr. Cumber served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation ("USDOT") and served both Secretary Norman Mineta and Secretary Mary Peters. In his role, Mr. Cumber had policy responsibility for the Federal Railroad Administration and Federal Transit Administration that will be of benefit to the PRAC. My predecessors interacted with Mr. Cumber extensively during his time at USDOT and found him to understand our industry's needs and challenges.

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 FECR supports his nomination.

If you have any questions please contact me at [phone number] or [email address].

Sincerely,



Robert B. Ledoux
SVP



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

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

Dear Chairman Oberman,

I am writing to express CSX's 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").

Prior to starting Brightline Florida, Mr. Cumber was the Executive Vice President for Corporate Development at Florida East Coast Railway ("FECR"). His experience with freight rail allowed him to appreciate the relationship between freight and passenger rail companies when developing Brightline to ensure the interest of both industries were protected. In addition to his passenger and freight rail experience, Mr. Cumber served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation ("USDOT") and served both Secretary Norman Mineta and Secretary Mary Peters. In his role, Mr. Cumber had policy responsibility for the Federal Railroad Administration and Federal Transit Administration that will be of benefit to the PRAC. CSX interacted with Mr. Cumber extensively during his time at USDOT and found him to understand our industry's needs and challenges.

Therefore, 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 CSX is to provide its support for his nomination.

Thank you for your service and your consideration of Mr. Cumber.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Livingston", is written over a horizontal line.

Tom Livingston
Vice President Government & Community Affairs
CSX Transportation

January 15, 2024

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

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

Dear Chairman Oberman,

I am writing to express my strong 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").

Herzog Transit Services, Inc. (HTSI), and its wholly-owned subsidiary, TransitAmerica Services Inc. (TASI), are major industry service providers for commuter rail, heavy/metrorail, DMU/hybrid, intercity, and streetcar systems across North America. Formed in 1993, HTSI is now the largest privately held passenger rail operations and maintenance (O&M) provider in the United States moving more than 30 million passengers annually.

Throughout my time in the industry, I have personally interacted with numerous transportation executives, and it is important that someone with Mr. Cumber's background is part of the PRAC. Mr. Cumber is a visionary of the Brightline Intercity Passenger Rail in Florida and I have personally interacted with him throughout the development of the project. From putting together the rights-of-way, leading the environmental permitting process, securing private activity bond allocations and grants, and galvanizing support for the introduction of high speed rail service in Florida, Nevada, and California, Mr. Cumber understands the challenges and opportunities for passenger rail growth in this country.

Mr. Cumber was a member of Florida East Coast Railway's executive team and has a strong background with freight rail. He has also been leading the negotiations to introduce commuter rail to the FECR rail corridor. In addition to his passenger and freight rail experience, Mr. Cumber also served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation ("USDOT") and served both Secretary Norman Mineta and Secretary Mary Peters. In his role, Mr. Cumber had policy responsibility for the Federal Railroad Administration and Federal Transit Administration that will be of benefit to the PRAC.

Mr. Cumber's comprehensive 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 I am honored to provide my support for his nomination.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 816-676-5667 or blager@herzog.com

Sincerely,



Brad Lager
Chairman and CEO
Herzog Enterprises



American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

January 30, 2024

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

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 ASLRA.

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 stylized flourish extending from the end.

Chuck Baker
President, ASLRRA



January 31, 2024

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

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

Dear Chairman Oberman,

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

With nearly half a billion riders on Siemens Mobility passenger rail and transit rolling stock annually, we are connecting communities coast to coast and offering innovative rail transportation solutions manufactured in the U.S. To that end, our team has worked closely with Mr. Cumber and the Brightline leadership team to provide Brightline Florida with the new Charger diesel-electric locomotives that fulfill the EPA's stringent Tier 4 emissions standards. And as our technology partnership has grown between Brightline and Siemens Mobility, we have continued a strong working relationship with Mr. Cumber.

Mr. Cumber understands the challenges and opportunities for passenger rail growth in this country, including the need for domestic manufacturing capabilities for next generation, high-speed rail trainsets. His expertise in navigating issues regarding intercity passenger rail, freight rail and commuter rail, coupled with his time in both the public and private sectors make him uniquely suited to support the mission of the newly established PRAC.

Siemens Mobility is pleased to provide our support for his nomination. If you have any questions please contact me at michael.cahill@siemens.com or (916) 712-6276.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Cahill".

Michael Cahill
President of Siemens Mobility Rolling Stock, North America



February 2, 2024

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

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").

HNTB has provided transportation and infrastructure engineering expertise for over 100 years, and we have worked with Brightline since 2012, providing general engineering consulting and project management services for the Miami to Orlando project. As such, we have worked closely with Mr. Cumber and the leadership team at Brightline throughout all phases of the project.

I have worked with numerous transportation executives throughout my career, and it is important that someone with Mr. Cumber's background is part of the PRAC. Mr. Cumber is a visionary behind the Brightline and many of our HNTB leadership members have worked with him in his current role, in his previous position at Florida East Coast Railway, and during his time working with the United States Department of Transportation ("USDOT").

HNTB has supported Mr. Cumber's successful milestone achievements with Brightline, including putting together the rights-of-way, completing the environmental permitting process, securing private activity bond allocations and grants, and galvanizing support for the introduction of high-speed rail service. Mr. Cumber understands the challenges and opportunities for passenger rail growth in this country. The PRAC will benefit greatly from having someone with Mr. Cumber's background as a member of the committee.

As mentioned, Mr. Cumber was also a member of Florida East Coast Railway's executive team and has a strong background in freight rail. He has also been leading the negotiations to introduce commuter rail to the FECR rail corridor, a project that HNTB has also supported. In addition to his passenger and freight rail experience, Mr. Cumber also served as Deputy Chief of

Staff at the USDOT and served both Secretary Norman Mineta and Secretary Mary Peters. Some of our current HNTB employees were colleagues of his at USDOT and attest to his grasp of the challenges and opportunities that exist for the rail industry. In his role, Mr. Cumber had policy responsibility for the Federal Railroad Administration and Federal Transit Administration. This will be of great benefit to the PRAC.

Mr. Cumber's comprehensive 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 HNTB is pleased to provide our support for his nomination.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 512-497-8442 or rslimp@hntb.com

Sincerely,



Robert J. Slimp
Chairman & CEO