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Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No. 1)
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Members of the Surface Transportation Board,

I am writing to nominate myself to serve as one of the 3 at-large members of the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC) for the Surface Transportation Board (STB). With a distinguished career that includes serving as the Chief Information Security Officer of a Class I railroad (CSX), I will bring decades of rail and cybersecurity experience to this committee.

In an era when our Nation is so critically reliant on robust surface transportation, we have all benefited from the availability of safe and efficient railroads. However, at the same time, the surface rail sector faces many challenges, not the least of which is continuously escalating cybersecurity threats. As is evidenced by recent cybersecurity incidents and by recently enacted TSA cyber security directives, cyber concerns are front and center in the rail sector. I believe cyber risk will escalate further as railroads continue to shift operations even further into the digital realm.

At this crucial time, I suggest to you that it is vital to include cybersecurity expertise on the committee.

My combination of practical experience as a CISO, coupled with my extensive collaboration within and outside of the rail industry, positions me well to contribute to the PRAC's mission.

My nomination details are as follows:

Interest I Will Represent:

As an at-large member, I will actively bring the perspective of the rail cybersecurity community to the Advisory Committee and ensure that the STB's policies and decisions align with the needs of all parties involved in helping protect this critical sector. For decades, I have been a steadfast advocate for robust cybersecurity practices, information sharing, and resilience-building in the transportation sector. In this role, I will effectively represent the views, needs, and concerns of the rail cybersecurity community.

Summary of Experience and Qualifications:

With over 25 years of experience at a large railroad (CSX), including executive roles, I hope to bring a unique blend of skills and qualifications to the committee. My background includes leadership positions in technology and security, directly supporting Class I rail operations, where

I actively contributed to shaping strategies, addressing regulatory challenges, and driving the responsible adoption of emerging technology.

My extensive experience in cybersecurity, including threat intelligence, risk management, and emergency response, has allowed me to contribute valuable insights to the ongoing efforts of the sector. In addition to extensive collaboration with various government agencies on cybersecurity matters, for 17 years I served on rail-industry committees focused on passenger and freight cybersecurity challenges, providing valuable cybersecurity leadership to the transportation sector.

Recently, as owner of a transportation consulting company, I have been helping short line railroads comply with TSA security directives addressing cybersecurity, as well as serving on the board of advisors for a cybersecurity startup. Through both endeavors, I have gained further insight into how policy decisions can impact companies and suppliers, and the importance of maintaining a sound cybersecurity strategy in our connected world.

Willingness to Serve:

I wholeheartedly commit to serving as a member of the PRAC and actively participating in its activities and initiatives. I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to collaborate with fellow committee members and the STB in fulfilling its mission.

Agreement to Serve in a Representative Capacity:

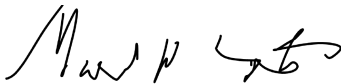
I understand and acknowledge that the committee members operate in a representative capacity. I agree to serve and contribute to the committee accordingly.

In addition, I would like to express my strong support for the STB's commitment to a committee that reflects diverse backgrounds and viewpoints. This diversity is crucial in addressing the complex and multifaceted challenges facing rail organizations today.

I appreciate your consideration of my nomination and look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the work of the PRAC. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you require any additional information or have any questions regarding my nomination.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark W. Grant', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark W. Grant