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RBC and Associates-LLC

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

Dear Chair Oberman:

Re: STB Decision; Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No.1—Notice of Passenger Rail Advisory Committee Vacancies)

Summary: RBC & Associates supports the nomination of Gregg Baxter to the Advisory Committee.

My consulting organization, in one form or another, has been in the railroad business for over four decades. Currently we represent the Association for Innovative Passenger Rail Operations- AIPRO where I have the honor of serving as president; RAILCET, (30 rail construction companies with a single national union agreement (IUOE and LIUNA). Our longest standing client is Herzog.

All of these clients are deeply interested in the future of passenger rail and are in accord that increased competition for operations and services producing quality jobs is a primary near-term objective. In this regard we are enthusiastic about the formation of the STB Passenger Rail Advisory Committee. We believe STB has a significant role to play going forward.

Brad Lager, CEO of Herzog, has nominated Gregg Baxter for a vacancy on the STB Committee. This nomination is strongly supported by both management and labor. Endorsements of Gregg have been filed with you from AIPRO representing passenger rail operating and service providers Keolis, Herzog Transdev and RATPdev. Rail labor unions Brotherhood of Maintenance Way Employees and Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, who are represented on the AIPRO Board, support the Baxter nomination. In addition, the RAILCET Group of companies and employees have endorsed the Baxter nomination. This includes the lead rail construction Building Trade Unions—the International Union of Operating Engineers and Laborers International Union of North America. I understand the Baxter nomination has also been endorsed by the Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Sam Graves as well as Troy Nehls, Chair of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials.

I do not believe there is any candidate who has a broader range of support. I believe Gregg will make an outstanding contribution in framing recommendations for the STB to promote the expansion of a high performance urban and intercity passenger rail network across America that creates a competitive environment where possible and produces great jobs!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ray Chambers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.