



ASSOCIATION FOR INNOVATIVE PASSENGER RAIL OPERATIONS

The Future of Passenger Rail

Ray B. Chambers, President
Ray.chambers@aiprorail.org 202 257 4099

The Honorable Martin Oberman
Chairman
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: AIPRO supports the nomination of Gregg Baxter to the Advisory Committee

The Association for Innovative Passenger Rail Operations –AIPRO—supports the establishment of the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC). We endorse the nomination of Gregg Baxter for a PRAC vacancy. Gregg has been nominated previously by Brad Lager, President and CEO of Herzog. Gregg served as Chair of AIPRO for more than a decade. He is currently on the Board and Vice Chair.

AIPRO is a passenger rail organization that advocates competition wherever possible in the commuter arena and intercity passenger corridors. AIPRO members operate everything from streetcars, to commuter, to intercity high-performance trains. In 2019 our members operated 250,000 trains carrying 80 million people in the United States.

Our four operating companies, who are fierce competitors in the marketplace, believe Gregg is the right person for this Committee. Two rail unions -- Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way/Teamsters and Brotherhood of Railway Signalmen (BRS) are AIPRO Members and support Gregg's nomination. We believe going forward our members will play a significant role in the development of new passenger rail operations across the country.

We are at a historic moment in time. Together with the new Office of Passenger Development, STB can play a significant role in accelerating passenger expansion in America. Over the last year AIPRO has worked closely with the Union Pacific and Chippewa-St. Croix Passenger Rail Commission (A FRA Corridor ID approved project-- Twin Cities to Eau Claire, Wisconsin). We

have proposed a Direct Access Model which is designed to reach “win-win” agreements in intercity rail corridor development through commercial negotiation and introduction of competition in the selection of operators and service providers. Generally, within STB current authority, we believe there can be a significant role in expanding commercial involvement in intercity passenger corridor development through expert guidance and mediation.

From our perspective it is critical that there be an individual on the Advisory Committee who fully understands the nuances of this private involvement in passenger rail expansion. That person is Gregg Baxter.

Sincerely,



Ray Chambers – President

The support of the nomination of Gregg Baxter is fully endorsed by the AIPRO Board and Membership:

(Slate proposed for election at Annual Meeting January 30, 2024)

Gerald Francis (Keolis) Chair and member of the Executive Committee

Gregg Baxter (Herzog-Vice Chair/Treasurer

Josh McCormack (RATPdev), Board Member

Jeff Joines (BMWED/Teamsters), Board Member

Jon McGrath (McGrath Rail), Board Member

Ray Chambers, President

Mason Baxter, Managing Director

Thomas Cornillie, VP for Research and Analysis

Mike Efaw, (BRS), VP for Labor

Jon Michael McGrath, VP for Legislation

Jolene Molitoris (former FRA Administrator) Trusted Advisor