

January 31, 2024

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Surface Transportation Board  
Attn: Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No. 1)  
395 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Nomination of candidate for Passenger Railroad Advisory Committee, at-large representative

Dear Mr. O'Boyle,

I would like to nominate the following candidate for the Passenger Railroad Advisory Committee (RPAC).

(1) Name, position, and contact information of candidate:

Barton Jennings, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
Western Illinois University  
PO Box 2199  
Alma, AR 72921  
BE-Jennings@wiu.edu  
be.jennings3009@gmail.com (preferred)  
(309) 635-4780

(2) Interest the candidate will represent:

At-large representative with relevant experience in the design and construction of passenger rail infrastructure, transportation planning and consulting services, and transportation-related public policy work.

(3) Summary of candidate's experience and qualifications:

- Noted railroad scholar with a Ph.D. in transportation and logistics from the University of Tennessee.
- Created and ran the Rail Research Institute of the University of Tennessee's Center for Transportation Research.
- Created first generation TIGER GIS files depicting US rail routes and associated capacities.
- Author of a transportation textbook and a series of railroad history books..
- Professor Emeritus of Supply Chain Management at Western Illinois University.
- Actively teaching transportation classes at the university level.
- Actively teaching railroad track inspection workshops to passenger rail industry professionals. Has taught track inspection workshops to several hundred US railroads over several decades, including an "Advanced High Speed Railroad Track Inspection for Amtrak" seminar.

- Almost a decade of management experience with Union Pacific Railroad.
- Consultant for several short-line railroad acquisitions.
- Consultant for NTSB on reconstruction of several passenger train derailments.
- Expert witness for Amtrak on various legal cases.
- Transportation consultant for various Fortune 500 corporations.
- Organized and ran excursion passenger train trips over dozens of railroads.
- Actively assisting/advising the A&M Railroad in Arkansas and the Sugar Express in Florida with their tourist train operations.

(4) Representation candidate is willing to serve as a member of the PRAC:

Candidate agrees (pending additional information) to serve either a two- or three-year term as a representative on the newly formed Passenger Railroad Advisory Committee, with meetings to be held at least twice each year, and that no honoraria, salaries, travel or per diem will be available to members of the PRAC.

(5) Statement that candidate agrees to serve in representative capacity:

Candidate agrees to provide advice and recommendations to the Board on issues relating to passenger train service, representing the interests of non-Amtrak passenger rail with a focus on small passenger rail providers, including inter-city, tourist rail, and excursion operations. Would also represent the interest of the general public regarding track safety and maintenance policies for passenger rail services.

Sincerely,

Barton Jennings, Ph.D.  
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 Alma, AR 72921  
 be.jennings3009@gmail.com  
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