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February 5, 2024

Mr. Martin Oberman, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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Dear Chairman,

I would like to volunteer to serve on the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC) under the direction of the Surface Transportation Board. I feel I am uniquely qualified to serve in the position as a representative from a state that has long-range trains and no intercity passenger rail.

I currently serve as a member of the Legislative Committee on the Missouri Rail Passenger Advisory Committee (MORPAC). That committee was instrumental in 2022 in lobbying the Missouri legislature to provide two daily roundtrip passenger rail trains on the Missouri River Runner. Recently, the MORPAC Legislative Committee helped spearhead the effort to have our state's Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission (MHTC) ride an AMTRAK train from our Warrensburg depot to Kansas City for their bi-monthly meeting. The train trip for the MHTC was the first time that had been done!

In addition to working on the state level, I serve locally as Vice Chair of the Warrensburg Depot and Maintenance Committee, a group that has renovated and maintained our local depot as a transportation hub for over 30 years.

In addition to my passion for passenger rail, I am employed as the Executive Director for Governmental Relations for the University of Central Missouri (UCM) in Warrensburg. Our university is only two blocks from the railroad depot, and passenger rail is very important to our students, faculty, and staff. I strive to promote passenger rail to our new students, particularly our large population of international students.

Prior to my position at UCM, I served in the Missouri State Senate and House of Representatives. While in the Senate, I served as the Senate designee to the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC) and attended many meetings throughout the region and Washington, D.C.

I would be honored to serve on the PRAC, and I feel I can bring an important dynamic to the group. Please see my biography for additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Pearce

Enclosure

David Pearce
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David Pearce currently serves as the Executive Director for Governmental Relations at the University of Central Missouri (UCM). Appointed in 2019, Pearce works closely with the president and senior administrators to craft legislative priorities as well as coordinate with key elected officials and staff members to communicate UCM's legislative priorities. Although not directly a university expenditure, Pearce works to maintain daily passenger rail opportunities for UCM students, faculty, and staff.

Pearce served 8 years in the Missouri Senate representing constituents from the 21st and 31st Senatorial Districts. He also served 6 years in the Missouri House of Representatives before becoming a senator. While serving in the State Senate, Pearce served as the Senate designee on the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC). Pearce served on the Appropriations Committee for his entire tenure in the Senate and helped provide funding for passenger rail in Missouri.

Pearce currently serves on the Missouri Rail Passenger Advisory Committee (MORPAC) and currently helps lead the Legislative Committee. That committee helped lobby the state legislature in 2022 to provide two daily roundtrips on AMTRAK. He also supports passenger rail locally by serving as Vice Chair of the Warrensburg Depot Renovation, a group that has renovated and supported the historic depot for over 30 years. Pearce coordinated the AMTRAK trip in December 2023 for the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (MHTC) to ride on AMTRAK for one of their bi-monthly meetings. A first for Missouri!

Pearce has received several awards including Farm Bureau's Friend of Agriculture, Henry Geyer Award by the University of Missouri Alumni Association, the Horace Mann Award by the Missouri National Education Association, and the James C. Kirkpatrick Excellence in Governance Award by the UCM Student Government Association.

Pearce is a graduate of the University of Missouri in Columbia and is a native of Warrensburg, Missouri. He and his wife Teresa are active members of the Warrensburg community and have one grandson. In his spare time, Pearce likes to ride his bicycle on the KATY Trail and ride AMTRAK whenever possible.