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February 5, 2024

Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Office of Proceedings
February 5, 2024
Part of
Public Record

Dear Surface Transportation Board,

Hello. My name is Ester Jersey and I am writing this nomination in support of my son, Jester, who is applying to serve on the Passenger Railroad Advisory Committee, or PRAC. Above is my contact address, and these are my email and phone numbers, ejcaddy12@gmail.com and 925-231-5873. My son's contact information is jjjersey96@gmail.com, his email, and his phone number is 925-305-4796. I am nominating my son for the individual customer representative position.

My son would like to serve on the PRAC as a representative because he likes to travel often by train. Our family has lived in the Bay Area his whole life, and we often visited friends and family in the Bay Area by riding BART, our local metro rail that helps us travel all over our part of the state's Bay Area region. I rarely travel out of state, and when I travel, it is often to visit family and friends outside the country by plane. However, my son travels out of state very often for conferences because he volunteers for several local community organizations that have conferences around the country, so he often takes the train if he goes by himself and doesn't know anyone driving to where he is going.

Because me and my husband don't travel out of state much, especially by train, our son would always come home to share some of the stories he's had while traveling. Sometimes the stories are good(he meets new people, he visits new places) and not always good(train delays, the rides are bumpy in some places), but he always has great stories, so we are happy whenever he comes to visit during the holidays to tell us about some of the places he has been to. We are always to hear about his travels.

Since our son has so many different experiences, he tells us that it would be great if he could be more of a representative to fellow customers, like the people he meets when he travels. He not only shares his experiences with us, but the experiences other people share with him, as he is sometimes on a train for a few days with other travelers. He often mentions that people say it is hard to advocate on a national level because local advocacy groups can only do so much. My son thought about joining a local rail advocacy organization, but after college, he has been traveling very often, so he does not have the time to attend meetings. He was recently looking up some to consider joining when he saw the announcement for PRAC, and asked me to help

nominate him, so that is why I am writing this. He said he wants to advocate for better customer experiences when they travel on passenger rails.

I think my son would be well-qualified to serve on PRAC because he is an honest, hard-working individual. He is always considerate of others, makes new friends easily, likes to learn new things, is very knowledgeable, and is very thorough about jobs that he does. Whenever you ask him for help, he is always willing to sit down to listen to what you have to say even when he is very busy.

He also has plenty of experiences in the rail industry regarding travel. He likes riding Amtrak rather than riding a plane because he gets to see all the new places in between, and those stops sometimes become new places he then visits. He has traveled on local metro trains all across the country after traveling on Amtrak because he likes to compare all the different trains he's been on to see which ones are efficient, which ones are not bumpy, how clean a train is and whatever he notices that is worth telling us stories about back home. We learn so much from his observations, so we're always glad to hear about his travels because we don't see the things he is able to see.

My son also has experiences beyond his character and on trains. In 2021, after going to a conference on the east coast, his train was disrupted due to an accident in Montana, and he had to wait at a station in St. Paul, Minnesota for 2 days while the track was being cleared. He can tell you the story himself and his experiences. As a parent, I was worried because I had seen the story on the news and thought my son was involved in the accident because it happened at the same time he was traveling and in the area he was traveling through. I watch the evening news often and had to contact him after I heard there was an Amtrak crash. I was relieved to hear that he was okay, and was glad when he finally made it back home.

When he returned to California, I asked him if the experience made him want to stop riding trains, and if he was going to ride planes more after the accident. He told me that he was glad for the experience, and that he was even more enthusiastic about train travel. He also said that he wanted to advocate for passengers better because even though they (people who were stranded at the station) didn't get help right away, he was able to speak with Amtrak regional leaders about his experiences in a respectful manner and they helped work out his stay at the train station so he could use the lounge while he waited for the next train to take him home. While he said the help was slow, he also said that the Amtrak leaders were very nice, respectful and genuinely cared about helping, and he believed they were trying to help him. He wanted to pay it forward by helping others through advocacy so that people in a similar situation don't have to go through the difficulties he went through, and he thinks he can best do this with a membership on PRAC as a representative for other customers like himself so that he could speak on their behalf.

Before I submitted this support of nomination, I spoke with my son yesterday, as we call each other on the weekends before the new work week starts. He shared that he

just submitted his self-nomination yesterday, Feb. 4th, and reminded me to submit my support of nomination before the end of today's business day. He himself told me that he wishes, and still wishes, to serve as a member of PRAC, and wanted me to share this on my nomination letter as well that he is willing to serve as a member of PRAC. He also shared all the information I needed to write a supporting nomination, so I hope I am filling this up correctly.

Finally, in addition to his willingness to serve as a member of PRAC, he also wanted me to share that he will do so in a representative capacity, and that even though he is an individual, that he will represent with the best interests of everyone involved in the rail industry, whether they are a customer like himself, a train operator like those on BART, Amtrak and other intercity rails he's traveled with across the country and even freight operators in the industry who share infrastructure with all the other companies that use railroad lines to help passengers like him travel across the country. He wants to help make the rail industry better by becoming a member of PRAC.

I wholeheartedly support the nomination of my son to join PRAC as an individual customer representative and I hope that the Surface Transportation Board will choose him to represent all other individual rail passengers across the United States who travel with any rail lines, local or national. Thank you.

Sincerely,
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