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Office of Proceedings
February 5, 2024
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February 5, 2024

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

Re: Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No. 1) – Notice of Establishment of a federal advisory committee on passenger rail service

Dear Chairman Oberman,

I am writing to endorse the nomination of Mr. Ty Dragoo to be appointed to the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC) as the 3-year representative-at-large position. Mr. Dragoo is a fifth-generation railroader who hired on as a switchman for Union Pacific Railroad in 2005. Since 2010, he has served as a legislative representative of Local 1503 in Marysville, Kansas and currently serves as the Kansas Legislative Director for SMART-TD. He is also the National Chairman of State Directors for SMART.

I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Dragoo in both my capacity as a State Senator for 14 years and as Governor since 2019. He served as a member of my transition team for Labor, Commerce and Transportation where he assisted in assessing the current state of the agencies and made recommendations for my consideration. Under my administration he has been appointed to serve on the Kansas Statewide Rail Advisory Committee and the IKE transportation program committee where he advised my Department of Transportation on the new 10-year transportation plan.

Mr. Dragoo has been a strong advocate for transportation at all levels and understands both the legislative and administrative process well. He also has first-hand knowledge as it relates to rail service through his work for Union Pacific Railroad. I strongly support Mr. Dragoo's appointment to the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Kelly".
Laura Kelly
Governor of Kansas