



Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO
307927

February 5, 2024

Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
February 5, 2024
Part of
Public Record

RE: Notice of Passenger Rail Advisory Committee Vacancies Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No. 1)

Chair Oberman,

I write in response to the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) request for nominations to serve on the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC). The Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD) formally endorses the individuals listed below who have been nominated and endorsed by our affiliate unions to serve as at-large representatives on the Committee.

TTD consists of 37 affiliate unions representing workers in all modes of transportation, including the totality of rail labor. TTD and our affiliates strongly support efforts to improve passenger rail service in the United States.

The PRAC will bring together rail industry stakeholders and experts to provide independent policy advice to the Board on issues impacting the development and operation of railroad passenger services, including: improving efficiency on passenger rail routes; reducing disputes between passenger rail carriers and freight rail hosts regarding the use of freight rail carrier-owned facilities and infrastructure for passenger service, including passenger on-time performance issues; and improving regulatory processes related to intercity passenger rail to the benefit of the public, the communities served by passenger rail, and the environment. TTD is a strong advocate for including labor representatives in critical conversations about the safety and operations of passenger rail and its interactions with freight rail. Our affiliate unions have members in both the passenger and freight rail industries and can provide expertise from both perspectives. We therefore respectfully urge the STB to give due consideration to the individuals identified below.

Ty Dragoo, nominated for an at-large representative position by the Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART-TD)

Mr. Dragoo is a fifth-generation railroader who hired on as a switchman for Union Pacific Railroad in 2005. He has served as a legislative representative of Local 1503 in Marysville, Kansas since 2010. Mr. Dragoo currently serves as the Kansas Legislative Director for SMART-TD and serves as the National Chairman of State Directors in SMART.

During his term, he has been instrumental in many legislative successes in the Kansas rail industry, such as rail stakeholder inclusion on the Statewide Transportation Plan and direct involvement in legislation entering Kansas into the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC). Mr. Dragoo's nearly two decades in the rail

industry along with his demonstrated history of collaboration and problem solving would make him an asset to this Committee.

Aaron Edelman, nomination for an at-large representative position endorsed by the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (BRS)

Aaron Edelman represents labor unions in court, arbitrations, administrative actions, and before Congress. Mr. Edelman specializes in handling litigation under the Railway Labor Act and the National Labor Relations Act. He has worked on various aspects of labor law and policy for over 10 years. Prior to joining Mooney Green where he currently practices, Mr. Edelman practiced law at a firm in Georgetown where his administrative law practice focused on federal regulatory law, policy and litigation. Mr. Edelman also served as the primary legislative staffer for public and private sector labor policy for U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski. His legislative work focused on the Appropriations committee and the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) committee. He uses this expertise to advocate on behalf of working people before Congressional committees and federal agencies.

Roy Morrison, nominated for an at-large representative position by the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division - International Brotherhood of Teamsters (BMWED)

Roy worked for Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) between 1996 and 2015 as a Track Laborer, Equipment Operator, Track Foreman, and Track Inspector. He worked over most of UPRR's Northern system, spending 11 years traveling on the system production gangs (SPG) and eight years working local forces out of Spokane, WA. In his role as BMWED's Director of Safety, Roy is the safety representative for railroad maintenance of way employees who inspect, install, construct, repair, maintain, and operate railroad tracks and railroad bridges on all Class I freight railroads, many passenger railroads such as Amtrak, METRA, New Jersey Transit, Southern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, as well as many Class II and other passenger service railroads in the United States.

Conclusion

These candidates are committed to ensuring efficiency a robust passenger rail system in the United States. Their combined experience managing passenger rail and freight rail interactions in addition to their labor perspective would be an invaluable resource to the PRAC as it develops its recommendations. TTD appreciates the opportunity to endorse these candidates and hopes that STB will consider our recommendations to provide the Committee with the views of frontline workers who serve as irreplaceable stewards in maintaining the safe, effective, and efficient operation of our rail system.



Sincerely,

Greg Regan
President