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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
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February 5, 2024

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chair
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

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Dear Chair Oberman,

I write today in support of appointing Robert Padgette, Managing Director of the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA), to the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC). Mr. Padgette would bring to the PRAC more than 25 years in the transportation field, and as Managing Director for CCJPA, Mr. Padgette would bring a Californian perspective to the PRAC, which is crucial to ensuring my district and state are represented.

In his current role at CCJPA, Mr. Padgette is responsible for the oversight of the 170-mile Capitol Corridor Rail service between Auburn and San Jose, California, historically the third busiest intercity rail corridor in the country. He has led the organization through one of the most challenging times in its history and is actively improving the corridor to expand service for the first time since 2006. CCJPA works collaboratively with Union Pacific Railroad and Amtrak to deliver one of the highest on-time performance levels in the country. It also leads the industry in innovation, with the active enhancement of a next-generation California Passenger Information Display System, the direct operations of the onboard Wi-Fi System, and the recent initiation of a pilot "Tap2Ride" open-loop, contactless payment ticketing system, the first on an intercity rail system in the world.

Prior to his role with CCJPA, Mr. Padgette played an integral role in establishing the Northeast Corridor Commission, an agency created by Congress to bring together the Northeast Corridor states, Amtrak, and USDOT to focus on passenger and freight rail on the Northeast Corridor. Mr. Padgette has also played an important role in national rail policy through his service as Chair of the State-Amtrak Intercity Passenger Rail Committee (SAIPRC) from 2020 to 2023, a time that required a high degree of collaboration among states to preserve services during the pandemic. Under his leadership, SAIPRC adopted a new Cost Allocation Policy for State Supported Rail Services that improves transportation and increases the decision-making role of states in the delivery of their respective services.

I am confident that Mr. Padgette will bring to STB's PRAC the skills and perspective critical to shaping STB's role in passenger rail, and I believe it is essential to the PRAC's mission that California's unique perspective be represented on the Committee. I endorse Mr. Padgette's nomination without hesitation.

Sincerely,



DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress