

February 5, 2024

Surface Transportation Board
Attention: Chairman Martin J. Oberman
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

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February 5, 2024
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Subject: Application for Membership in the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC)

Dear Chairman Oberman and Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my earnest interest in serving on the Surface Transportation Board's Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC). With over twelve years of service in the railroading industry, including a decade of experience with CSXT, and a deep-seated commitment to public service as evidenced by my eight-year tenure as a city council member in Ferrysburg, Michigan, I am poised to offer my expertise and insights to advance the PRAC's mission.

My career in railroading, directly interfacing with the infrastructure and operations that support both freight and passenger rail, has endowed me with a nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities inherent in our national rail system. This experience, coupled with my public service, has equipped me to contribute meaningfully to discussions on efficiency, infrastructure utilization, and the regulatory environment that governs passenger rail.

I am particularly drawn to the PRAC's objectives of enhancing service efficiency, improving regulatory processes, and fostering constructive dialogues between passenger and freight rail stakeholders. My background offers a unique blend of hands-on operational knowledge and community-focused problem-solving skills that align with the PRAC's goals.

Enclosed, you will find my resume detailing my professional history and accomplishments. I am eager to bring my perspective as a seasoned railroader and a committed public servant to the PRAC. I believe that my experience, coupled with my dedication to enhancing our nation's passenger rail infrastructure and services, will contribute to the committee's success.

Thank you for considering my application. I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute to the vital work of the PRAC and look forward to the possibility of engaging in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Chris Larson

Chris Larson

Contact Information

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Professional Experience

CSX Transportation, Freight Conductor
April 2014 – Present

- Operated across territories also used by AMTRAK Pere Marquette, gaining in-depth knowledge of passenger and freight rail coexistence.
- Led safety initiatives, resulting in improved operational safety records.

Larson Manufacturing & Sales, Founder/Owner
January 2017 – Present

- Secured a grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for innovation in product development.
- Managed product lifecycle from concept through production, demonstrating leadership and project management skills.

Public Service

City Council Member, City of Ferrysburg
November 2007 – May 2017

- Spearheaded community improvement projects, including the development of bike paths and waterfront enhancements.
- Advocated for public transportation initiatives, contributing to local infrastructure development.

Education

Western Illinois University
Bachelor of Arts in Law Enforcement & Political Science
1991

Skills & Certifications

- FRA Certified Conductor and RCO Operator
- Comprehensive knowledge of rail operations and safety protocols.
- Proven leadership and public service record.
- Effective communicator, capable of engaging with stakeholders at all levels.
- Deep understanding of transportation infrastructure and policy.

References

Available upon request.

February 5, 2024

To: STB Chairman Oberman
Members of the Selection Committee

From: Chris Larson

RE: **PRAC Summary of Experience**

As a seasoned railroading professional with over 12 years of experience, including a decade at CSXT, and a committed public servant with eight years as a city council member, I bring a unique perspective to the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC). My firsthand experience with the operational intricacies of shared rail infrastructure, especially in territories used by both freight and passenger rail, equips me with a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities in enhancing efficiency, infrastructure utilization, and on-time performance. My public service background underscores my commitment to community engagement and infrastructure development, aligning with the PRAC's mission to advise on improving passenger rail services. I am eager to leverage my expertise and insights to contribute to the PRAC's work in addressing pressing passenger rail issues.

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To: STB Chairman Oberman
Members of the Selection Committee

From: Chris Larson

RE: **PRAC Willingness to Serve Statement**

I am fully committed and eager to serve as a member of the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC). My extensive experience in railroading and public service, coupled with my dedication to improving passenger rail infrastructure and services, underscores my readiness to contribute meaningfully to the PRAC's mission. I understand the responsibilities this role entails and am prepared to engage actively in the committee's work, offering my insights, expertise, and time to support the Surface Transportation Board's objectives in enhancing the nation's passenger rail system.

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To: STB Chairman Oberman
Members of the Selection Committee

From: Chris Larson

RE: **STB Representation Agreement**

In my application to serve on the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC), I wish to affirm my commitment to representing the broader interests of the public and communities, as well as the objectives of the PRAC. While my professional background includes employment with CSXT and membership in the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation (SMART) Union, and my residence is in Michigan, my intention to serve on this committee is driven by a dedication to the general welfare and advancement of passenger rail services at a national level, rather than any specific group or regional interest. My aim is to contribute constructively to the committee's goals, leveraging my experience for the benefit of the entire passenger rail system and the communities it serves.