

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 25, 2024

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The 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)

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

Dear Chairman Oberman,

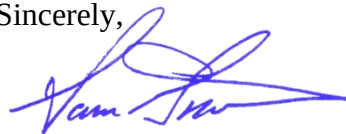
I am writing to express my strong support for Husein Cumber's nomination to serve as a member of the Surface Transportation Board's newly formed Passenger Railroad Advisory Committee ("PRAC"). As Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I have worked extensively with Mr. Cumber to develop better rail transportation policy for this country.

Mr. Cumber is a visionary of the Brightline Florida and Brightline West intercity passenger rail systems. From assembling the rights-of-way, leading the environmental permitting processes, securing private activity bond allocations and grants, and galvanizing support for the introduction of high-speed rail service in Florida, Nevada, and California, Mr. Cumber understands the challenges of and opportunities for passenger rail growth in this country. Excitement exists for a new model of passenger rail that does not require taxpayer subsidies and is private sector owned and operated. To date, Brightline Florida has invested \$6 billion of private capital and Brightline West plans to invest approximately \$9 billion in private funding. It is essential to have someone with Mr. Cumber's unique background and innovative perspective represented on the PRAC.

Mr. Cumber's qualifying experience extends beyond the Brightline ventures. He previously served as an executive at Florida East Coast Railway (FECR), where he led overall strategy for the freight business, and oversaw negotiations to introduce commuter rail to the FECR rail corridor. Additionally, Mr. Cumber served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) under Secretary Norman Mineta and Secretary Mary Peters. In that role, Mr. Cumber was responsible for Federal Railroad Administration and Federal Transit Administration policy, which is background that will tremendously benefit the PRAC.

Mr. Cumber's knowledge and experience with high-speed, intercity, freight, and commuter rail, coupled with his strong DOT policy experience, make him uniquely qualified to serve as a member of PRAC. I am pleased to provide my support for his nomination. Should you have any questions or require additional information please contact Jack Ruddy, Majority Staff Director, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, at Jack.Ruddy@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Sam Graves
Member of Congress