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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
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LILA HELMS, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
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February 7, 2024

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The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
February 7, 2024
Part of
Public Record

Re: Establishment of Passenger Rail Advisory Committee, Docket No. EP 774-1

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write in support of the application of Jeffrey Davis for the Surface Transportation Board's new Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC). Mr. Davis is the Rail Division Director for the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and manages statewide transportation planning for freight and passenger rail. He is also a voting member of the State-Amtrak Intercity Passenger Rail Committee.

Mr. Davis has extensive experience that would make him a valuable addition to the PRAC. In his role at TxDOT, he oversees federal passenger rail programs, including the state-supported *Heartland Flyer* service, and coordinates federal, state, and local support for rail construction projects. His experience working with the railroad industry on operations, regulatory compliance, and emergency response would help in developing recommendations from the PRAC to serve the Board's goals of improving efficiency, regulatory processes, and service for communities.

Mr. Davis is a leader in the Texas rail industry with broad exposure and experience that would serve PRAC well at a critical time for passenger rail in this country. Texas maintains a total of 10,539 miles of track, the most of any state,¹ and has all forms of rail service: freight rail, long-distance and state-supported intercity passenger rail, and commuter rail.

The PRAC would benefit from Mr. Davis's experience and insight, and I urge you to give his application your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Ted Cruz
Ranking Member

¹ TxDOT, *Rail and Transit Safety*, TxDOT 2023-24 Education Series, <https://ftp.txdot.gov/pub/txdot/sla/education-series/rail.pdf>.