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614.592.8671

Michael Todd
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316.537.5512

Date: January 24, 2024

To: Surface Transportation Board,
Attn: Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No. 1)
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Subject: Nomination Passenger Rail Advisory Committee Representative

Mr. Ty Dragoo
Legislative Chairman, and, Director and Chairman for SMART TD-Kansas
523 SW. Van Buren, Suite 100 Topeka, KS 66603
ty@smartks.org
785-817-9607

The Northern Flyer Alliance, Inc. nominates, and recommends the appointment of Mr. Ty Dragoo to serve on the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC) as the 3-year representative-at-large position. Ty's experience and qualifications for the position are identified below:

Ty has impressive credentials in various leadership positions at the local, state and national level. Ty has been the Legislative Director of the United Transportation Union in Kansas since 2006 (prior to its merger with SMART); and is the current Director and Chairman of Kansas Legislative of SMART Transportation.

Ty is also the current Chair of the National Association of State Directors for SMART (Sheet Metal Air Rail Transportation Union), a position he has held since 2020. As such he is well connected and acquainted with labor leaders at the national level. This will be invaluable to the formation and work of the National Passenger Rail Advisory Committee.

Ty was appointed to the Kansas Statewide Rail Advisory committee in 2021; experience and responsibility that parallels the mission of the STB Passenger Advisory Committee.

Ty has assisted the Northern Flyer Alliance, Inc., as Kansas state legislative liaison. The Northern Flyer Alliance, Inc. is the principal political action committee and lobbying group representing 40 city and county governments, and 12 civic organizations seeking expansion of Amtrak passenger rail service in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Ty's involvement has been a critical factor in the passage of



legislation qualifying the Heartland Flyer Extension for recognition in the Federal Railroad Administration Corridor ID program first round selection.

As pertains to professional railroad industry experience, Ty is uniquely qualified to be on this committee. Not only does he have significant knowledge in this legislative arena, he has been a Conductor for the Union Pacific Railroad with real world first-hand knowledge of railroading since 2005. Since 2009 he has been a member of the Federal Department of Transportation, Switching Operation Fatality Analysis group.

Ty was appointed by Governor Kelly, as member of both Labor & Commerce, and Transportation Transition Teams for the state of Kansas in 2018.

Ty was appointed by the Kansas legislature as a member of the Kansas Ten-year (TWORKS) & IKE program transportation committee in 2019.

Ty also Chairs the Working Kansas Alliance, a coalition of union and non-union groups representing more than 500,000 working Kansans.

Ty served as co-chair of the Michelle De La Isla labor advisory committee for the US House of representatives in 2020.

We enthusiastically submit our recommendation and know Mr. Dragoo will bring much to the table as the Surface Transportation Board forms the Passenger rail Advisory Committee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah Fischer Stout". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deborah Fischer Stout, President
Northern Flyer Alliance, Inc.