

United States Senate

February 9, 2024

EP 774 (Sub-No. 1)
307967

Mr. Martin Oberman, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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Dear Chairman Oberman,

It is my great honor and privilege to recommend my friend, David Pearce, to serve on the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC) under the guidance of the Surface Transportation Board. Having worked alongside David in the Missouri State Legislature from 2009 to 2017, as well as in the Missouri State Treasurer's Office from 2017 to 2019, I experienced firsthand his passion, expertise, and advocacy for expanding passenger rail services in Missouri.

As the Senate's designee to the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC), he secured critical funding for passenger rail initiatives across Missouri. His leadership on the Missouri Rail Passenger Advisory Committee (MORPAC) and spearheading of increased AMTRAK services in the state further highlight his talent for collaborative advocacy and strategic planning – skills that would suit him well on the PRAC.

David's commitment to his community has continued in his current role as Executive Director of Governmental Relations at the University of Central Missouri (UCM). He has demonstrated a keen ability to connect legislative priorities with community needs in and around the University. This includes efforts to maintain and promote daily passenger rail opportunities for UCM's faculty, staff, and students.

Throughout our time together serving in the State Senate, I was a witness to David's unwavering dedication to his constituents. In 2009, as members of the Senate Select Committee on Oversight of Federal Stimulus, a key group focused on the judicious use of federal funds allocated to Missouri, we were tasked with assessing how to best use the funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (H.R. 1). David played a pivotal role in eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse, while Missourians faced challenging times from the nationwide housing crisis. I know he will provide the same reasonable analysis on PRAC.

David Pearce has my full support in applying to join the PRAC. I will always remember picking up David from the Kirkwood, MO train station when he came to visit my state senate district. With his extensive experience and steadfast dedication to improving passenger rail systems across Missouri and nationwide, he will prove an invaluable addition to your team.

Should you need any further information or wish to discuss David's qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Schmitt", with a stylized, flowing script.

Eric Schmitt
United States Senator