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Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Sam Graves
Chairman

Jack Ruddy, Staff Director

Rick Larsen
Ranking Member

Katherine W. Dedrick, Democratic Staff Director

March 14, 2024

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

Dear Chairman Oberman:

I applaud the Surface Transportation Board (STB) on its efforts to create a Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC) to assist with the STB's role enforcing the on-time performance and access rights of intercity passenger trains on host railroads. I write to endorse the nomination of Washington State Department of Transportation Secretary Roger Millar for the PRAC.

Mr. Millar joined the Washington State Department of Transportation as Deputy Secretary in October 2015 and was appointed Secretary in August 2016. He is an engineer, planner and program manager with a strong leadership record in national organizations including the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

The rail system in Washington state is critical to maintaining the economy, environment and quality of life in the Pacific Northwest. The state has intercity passenger rail with the state-supported Amtrak *Cascades* service, long-distance passenger rail trains, plans for Ultra-High Speed Ground Transportation, *Sounder* commuter rail, numerous publicly and privately-owned short line freight railroads, and Class I freight rail service from Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Union Pacific. The state's passenger rail services rely on using host railroad infrastructure and Secretary Millar is well-versed in those contractual relationships. He would be a strong addition to the newly-formed PRAC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Larsen".

RICK LARSEN
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure