

April 26, 2024

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The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 2423

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RE: Ex Parte No. EP 526 (Sub.-No. 20) – *Notice of Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Committee Vacancies*

Dear Chairman Oberman:

I am writing to you in my capacity as former Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board (STB) in expressing support for John F. Hack to serve as a member of the of the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Committee (RSTAC), notably for the large shipper opening, as announced in the March 27, 2024 notice in the above-referenced matter.

I have known Mr. Hack for at least seven years in his professional capacity as a rail operations expert for petroleum companies. Mr. Hack has the ideal qualifications to serve on RSTAC. His background and experience uniquely qualify him to fill this vacancy, having served in rail operations roles with major rail carriers and shippers.

In his present role, he serves as the Rail Operations Director managing shipments of a variety of energy products for subsidiaries of Marathon Petroleum Corporation, the largest petroleum refiner in the United States. These shipments travel across North America on every Class I railroad and dozens of short lines. He currently oversees relationships with rail carriers, possessing an in-depth understanding of key issues often at the center of disputes between shippers and carriers. This encompasses managing freight agreements, industrial track agreements, demurrage, service issues, railcar storage, and interchange agreements.

He is also experienced in Class I railroad operations, having worked as a train dispatcher for both Union Pacific and BNSF. As a dispatcher, Mr. Hack dealt with the complicated rail network, striving to guide trains across the country to best serve their customers. Through this experience, he gained an appreciation for the service issues and challenges the railroads face due to fluctuations in traffic and weather events.

In addition, he has actively participated in meetings with STB members and Congressional staffers on rail issues, and in providing commentary on high impact rail regulatory proceedings such as HM-251 and EP 711. Moreover, for the last three years, he has served as Chair of the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers' Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, where he has worked on rail policy decisions that impact the energy industry, demonstrating the respect he has earned from his peers on transportation matters.

In sum, Mr. Hack's experience on both sides of the railroad/shipper issues will be invaluable to RSTAC conversations as you work towards solutions to rail service and

competition problems in the U.S. If I can offer further insights into Mr. Hack's qualifications to serve on RSTAC, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at (703) 863-9670. Thank you for your consideration of Mr. Hack to serve as a member of RSTAC, representing the large shipper voice. His passion for the freight rail industry is evident every day, and he is steadfast in working with others to find positive solutions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Daniel R. Elliott

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