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Expanding America's Bioeconomy

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April 29, 2024

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

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Office of Proceedings
May 1, 2024
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Public Record

Dear Chairman Oberman:

I am writing today to support the nomination of Dana Hansen, Assistant Vice President of Commercial Rail Freight at Acher Daniels Midland (ADM) to the Surface Transportation Board (STB) Rail Shipper Transportation Advisory Council.

As CEO of Growth Energy, the nation's largest trade association representing biofuels, I have seen firsthand the impactful role that the rail industry plays in the day-to-day business decisions of the ethanol industry. Growth Energy represents over half of all U.S. ethanol production, including 97 biorefineries, 120 innovative businesses that support biofuels and the supply chain, and tens of thousands of ethanol supporters around the country to deliver on low-cost, low-carbon fuel to American drivers. Our industry is dependent on rail service, with nearly 70 percent of our production moved by rail. In fact, ethanol represents the largest hazmat commodity shipped by rail, with more than 360,000 carloads shipping in 2023 alone and a fleet of more than 38,000 at the end of 2022.

Given our industry's vested interest in the success of the rail industry, it is my honor to support the nomination of Dana Hansen to serve on your Rail Shipper Transportation Advisory Council. Mr. Hansen has worked for ADM, a Growth Energy member, for nearly 28 years. For the past 22 years, he has served in roles related to rail transportation, including holistic rail freight strategy, railcar fleet management, railcar procurement, rail freight rate negotiation, public policy advocacy, transportation legal matters, rail supply chain electronic system development, and railcar utilization and optimization modeling.

Given Mr. Hansen's decades-long experience in rail-related roles and his current position on the STB's National Grain Car Council, I am confident the Shipper Transportation Advisory Council, and the rail industry as a whole, would greatly benefit from his perspective and insights.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Growth Energy's Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs Chris Bliley at (202)-579-7418 or CBliley@growthenergy.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration of Dana Hansen's nomination.

Sincerely,

Emily Skor
CEO
Growth Energy