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The Honorable Robert E. Primus, Chairman
The Honorable Karen J. Hedlund, Vice Chair
The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs, Member
The Honorable Michelle A. Schultz, Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Docket No. EP670 (Sub-No. 2)

Dear Chairman Primus, Vice Chair Hedlund, Member Fuchs, and Member Schultz,

I am nominating myself, Monica Freeman, to be selected for the biofuel feedstock growers or providers and biofuel refiners, processors, and distributors position on the Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC) as announced by the Board on August 2, 2024.

I am currently the Director of Rail Transportation at CHS Inc., a diversified global agribusiness cooperative and a shipper of renewable biodiesel, propane, and refined fuels. I have over 20 years of experience in transportation and logistics, with a focus on rail operations, procurement, optimization, and technology. I can provide valuable insights and perspectives to the RETAC and contribute to its mission of providing advice and guidance on issues related to the rail transportation of energy resources.

CHS produces over 250 million gallons of ethanol each year and markets over 1 billion gallons, making CHS one of the nation's largest suppliers of ethanol enhanced gasoline and one of the largest U.S. retailers of E85 ethanol. We are proud of the multiple years we have received the Grand Slam award which demonstrates our commitment to rail safety through zero Non-Accidental Release incidents. CHS is also a leader in soybean processing and refine more than 1.7 billion pounds of soybean oil each year at our crushing and refining facilities in Minnesota. Our refinery in Laurel, MT and McPherson, KS ship more than 1200 carloads of diesel annually. Rounding out our portfolio of commodities in the energy segment are over 5000 carloads of propane that provide heat to homes in Canada and in the U.S. as well as bulk agricultural uses, such as crop drying.

All these commodities are transported by rail, a crucial method CHS uses for over 350K carloads annually. Our extensive rail network includes all Class I railroads and various short line railroads in the US. We prioritize service and competitive pricing to assist our farmer owners in supplying established markets and discovering new growth markets.

Additionally, I am an active member of several professional organizations. These include serving as the Chairperson of the National Industrial Transportation League's Rail Transportation Committee and serving on the Executive Committee of the Midwest Association of Rail Shippers.

I am confident that my experience and skills in rail transportation and logistics, as well as my knowledge of the energy sector and the challenges and opportunities it faces, will allow me to provide “value added” participation to the STB, RETAC, and industry colleagues.

I am eager to share my insights and perspectives with the committee – learning from and collaborating with other industry experts and stakeholders. I appreciate your consideration of my nomination, and if selected, agree to serve in a representative capacity.

Sincerely,

Monica Freeman

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