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The Honorable Robert E. Primus, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20243

RE: Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No. 2), NOTICE OF RAIL ENERGY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Dear Chairman Primus,

I am writing on behalf of the National Industrial Transportation League ([NITL](#)) in supporting Ms. Monica Freeman, Director, Rail Transportation for CHS Inc. to serve as a member of the of the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory (RETAC), notably for the biofuel feedstock growers or providers and biofuel refiners, processors, and distributors opening as announced by the Board on August 2, 2024.

As you are aware, since 1907, NITL has been a trade association representing “The Voice of the Shipper” across truck, carload, rail, intermodal, ocean, and barge. NIT League members represent a broad swath of commodities and businesses, most which are very dependent on a healthy, viable and reliable freight rail network. From consumer goods manufacturers a, processors, and transporters, ranging from agriculture, aggregates, chemicals, steel, forest and paper, fuels, and foods products NIT League members spend billions in freight dollars annually and employ millions of people.

To hold a seat on the RETAC commands profound respect and honor among NITL members, as noted with outgoing RETAC member Jeff Eliason, Director, Supply Chain and Logistics, CHS Renewable Fuels.

Ms. Freeman has the ideal qualifications to serve on the RETAC with over 15 years of supply chain experience notably in transportation and logistics focusing on rail operations, procurement, optimization, and technology. Currently, as the Director of Rail Transportation at CHS, Inc., she manages a \$975M freight spend for rail shipments across multiple business units, responsible for rail team operational activities on 300K railcar shipments per year, ensuring optimization of the grain shuttle network, processing plants, refineries, and terminals – domestic and international (Canada and Mexico). She also oversees the procurement and maintenance of 4500+ private fleet assets, industrial track and land lease agreements and related projects for over 200 rail-served locations. She is constantly working with the Class I carriers and the short lines.

Ms. Freeman currently serves as Chair of NITL’s Rail Transportation Committee where she worked diligently on our First-Mile Last-Mile data initiative. The information generated from this exercise continues to be used to help explain to key policy decision makers – including you and your colleagues serving on the Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) and STB staff – the importance of how this data better illustrates actual railroad service performance. NITL is pleased that the Board has incorporated some type of required railroad-provided FMLM data in some of its recent efforts addressing poor railroad service.

Ms. Freeman is familiar with the STB where she accompanied Mr. Eliason to numerous RETAC meetings and she will be testifying on behalf of NITL at the Board's upcoming hearing, Docket No. EP 775, *Growth in the Freight Rail Industry*. She is constantly working with fellow NITL leaders in helping to develop NITL's comments in response to proceedings before the Board.

In addition, Ms. Freeman applies her technical and subject matter expertise in helping to identify policy, technical and/or commercial solutions to challenges experienced by not just shippers but also other industry stakeholders. She also has a keen sense and ability to identify opportunities and how to achieve them.

If I can offer further insights into Ms. Freeman's qualifications to serve on RETAC, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 443-975-5556 or via Nancy.oliddy@nitl.org.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for your consideration of Ms. Freeman to serve as a member of the RETAC, representing the biofuel feedstock growers or providers and biofuel refiners, processors, and distributors. Her passion for the freight rail industry is evident every day, and she is steadfast in working with others to find positive solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. Nancy O'Liddy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

E. Nancy O'Liddy
Executive Director