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August 30, 2024

Mr. Robert E. Primus
Chairman, Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20243
Attn: Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No. 2)
Via e-file

Dear Chairman Primus,

I write today to recommend and endorse Brent Hoops, Commodities Director at Chief Ethanol Fuels, as a biofuels industry representative on the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC).

Brent oversees Chief Ethanol's shipment of energy and agricultural commodities on multiple railways within the United States. His deep knowledge of rail transportation logistics, safety considerations for rail transport of energy products, and rail policy and regulatory issues would be a highly valuable asset to RETAC.

Brent's expertise in technical issues, policy and regulatory matters, and dispute resolution also make him an excellent candidate to advise STB on important policy and mediation issues across the industry. Additionally, Brent would lend an active and thoughtful voice on behalf of small- and mid-sized independent ethanol producers, a critically important segment of today's renewable fuels industry.

Thank you for considering Brent Hoops for a position on the RETAC. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (636) 594-2284 with any further questions or comments.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geoff Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Geoff Cooper
President and CEO



Chief Ethanol Fuels
4225 E South Street
Hastings, NE 68901
(402)463-6885
www.chiefethanol.com

August 21, 2024

Chairman Robert Primus
Attn: Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No. 2)
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Nomination of Brent Hoops to the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC)

Dear Chairman Primus,

I'm writing to express my interest and willingness to serve on the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC). My intention is to fill the current vacancy to represent biofuel refiners, processors, and distributors. I would enjoy the opportunity to serve the biorefining industry in a representative capacity.

In my current role as Commodities Director for Chief Ethanol Fuels, I coordinate shipping of ethanol and co-products via the BNSF and Union Pacific rail systems from each of our two ethanol plants. We are keenly aware of the prominent role that rail transport plays in the efficient movement of our products to market. I also lead a team responsible for the safe loading of products that will enter the railways, helping to ensure that shipping lanes stay open and effective.

Prior to my role in the ethanol industry, I worked for 14 years as a biofuel feedstock grower for ethanol and biodiesel. Much of this feedstock was ultimately shipped via rail to the appropriate biofuel refiner. This experience would help represent the feedstock producers and co-product consumers that rely on rail transportation to get their products to market.

My educational background includes a bachelor's degree in engineering management from the United States Military Academy at West Point. Relevant trade memberships include the Renewable Fuels Association, the American Coalition for Ethanol, Renewable Fuels Nebraska, the United States Grains Council, and Veterans for Renewable Fuels. I've also served on the Board of Directors for the Little Blue Natural Resources District in South Central Nebraska for six years.

Thank you for considering this nomination and I look forward to serving with you on the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Hoops". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brent Hoops
Commodities Director, Chief Ethanol Fuels
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