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Jennifer Mitchell
Executive Vice President, Strategy and Planning

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Chairman Patrick Fuchs
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No. 1)

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

I am writing to express my support for the nomination of Jason Orthner to serve on the Surface Transportation Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC). Mr. Orthner would excellently serve as the *"1 representative from a state that provides funding for intercity passenger rail. For purposes of ensuring geographic diversity within PRAC's membership, this representative cannot be from the same State as any of the representatives described in Paragraphs 2 and 5 of this section."* Amtrak would welcome North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) perspective on ways to improve passenger rail.

Mr. Othner is well qualified to serve on the PRAC and would bring a deep knowledge of the challenges and opportunities confronting intercity passenger rail service. He has spent most of his profession in the transportation industry, with a specific emphasis on rail issues. Mr. Othner is well respected in the rail industry and has an exemplary background covering North Carolina in his current role as Rail Division Director at NCDOT.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Jennifer Mitchell
Executive Vice President, Strategy & Planning