

February 27, 2025

EP 774 (Sub-No. 1)

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
Chair
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

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Dear Chair Fuchs:

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) is pleased to support the nomination of Garrett T. Eucalitto, President of AASHTO, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), and Member of the Northeast Corridor Commission, to serve as a state representative on the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC). Representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, AASHTO's mission is to support state DOTs to connect America with the transportation system of today and tomorrow. We also serve as the liaison between state DOTs and the federal government across all modes of transportation.

As a frequent user of passenger rail—both personally and professionally—President Eucalitto sees firsthand where it excels and where it falls short. He is always taking note of how the passenger rail system interacts with the community and the riders who are using the service. That is why at CTDOT, he created a new Customer Experience Unit focused on the state's public transportation riders. Having customer feedback, opinions, and ideas centered in CTDOT's planning process has led better service and higher satisfaction scores.

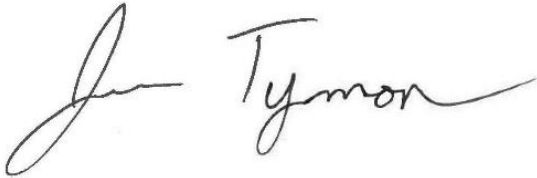
President Eucalitto believes deeply in the value passenger and freight rail service provides our country, and he is keenly aware of how much work is needed to fully reach its potential. The Northeast Corridor (NEC) runs right through his home state, which can be the bottleneck impacting the rest of the NEC. CTDOT has invested heavily in expanding passenger rail service beyond their legacy Metro-North service, using state and federal funding to launch the Hartford Line, a new intercity passenger rail service between New Haven, Hartford, and Springfield, MA, in 2018. In Connecticut and around the country, there is a focus on modernizing rail equipment and infrastructure to ensure safe, reliable, and quick travel for passengers and freight. Those goals cannot be achieved by sacrificing safety or cutting corners; rather, it can be achieved by continued, sustained investments that will modernize these systems.

President Eucalitto brings a deep personal connection to transportation, with his family coming to America in the early 1900s where they became some of the first road builders in Connecticut and New York. Their early work ensured people and goods could get to their destination, and that family history and legacy lives on through President Eucalitto's work today. Given his

uniquely qualified background, AASHTO is proud to nominate a consummate transportation leader in President Eucalitto to the PRAC.

Thank you so much for your consideration of President Eucalitto's outstanding candidacy, and please do not hesitate to contact Joung Lee, Deputy Director-Chief Policy Officer, at jlee@aaashto.org with any questions or comments that you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jim Tymon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" and last name "Tymon" clearly legible.

Jim Tymon
Executive Director