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Office of Chief Counsel
August 4, 2025
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Public Record

Chairman Patrick Fuchs
Surface Transportation Board
Washington DC

August 4, 2025

Docket EP 526 (Sub-No.23)
Nomination for Small Railroad Representative- RSTAC

Dear Chairman Patrick Fuchs,

I would hereby request your consideration to personally serve as a representative of the small railroad industry on the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC).

I have over 37 years of experience in the railroad business, having started my career in 1988 with the Santa Fe Railway. I have been fortunate to have worked for two Class 1 railroads (ATSF/BNSF, and CSX) and a Class 2 railroad, the Indiana Rail Road Co. I spent much of my Class 1 experience in Operations, both in field and headquarters positions. I was at Santa Fe when the historic Intermodal Business Unit was created and lived through the BN/Santa Fe merger and Conrail split while at CSX. Both were seminal moments in railroad history.

I was able to broaden my experience while working on the Indiana Rail Road. In my time at INRD I was responsible for all field operations (Transportation, Mechanical, and Engineering) along with handling all labor negotiations. I was also VP of Sales/Marketing and responsible for all aspects of the business development efforts.

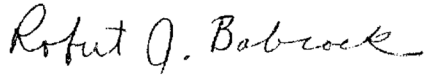
I am currently President/CEO of the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville (LAL) railroads. LAL is a family-owned railroad company operating in New York and Pennsylvania that has four separate properties. I am the Eastern Region VP at the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRRA) and a member of the Executive and Legislative Policy committees. I previously served as a director for the Midwest Association of Rail Shippers.

I feel I would bring a small railroad perspective to the Council. Our challenges and concerns are a bit different than the large Shortline holding companies. Having worked at large and small railroads, plus my wide range of experiences, gives me a unique outlook on our industry and how it all connects

Our industry is at a crossroads. While we have strived to improve service, the issues impeding our growth haven't gone away. Poor customer experience, difficulty in doing business, and lack of data/visibility continue to thwart our attempts to increase railroad carloadings. The industry has spent large amounts of Capital in the last 10 years and have little to show for it in terms of carload growth. We need to start listening to our customers.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert J. Babcock". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bob Babcock

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