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NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD

July 28, 2025

Mr. Patrick Fuchs
Chair, Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC

Delivered by e-file: Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No. 2)

Dear Chairman Fuchs and Members of the Board:

Please accept this letter as a nomination for Ed McKechnie to serve one term on the STB Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee. I have served on the Committee since its inception and am often able to share with the Board a candid and direct insight to rail and Customer questions that the establishments of the industries often would prefer not to discuss.

My service would come from my consulting engagement with the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad Commission for the Port of New Orleans ("NOPB"), a Class III railroad that connects with all six Class I Railroads, which involves their operations and marketing and requires strategic discussions with the various railroads at multiple levels. New Orleans is a strategic National gateway and the NOPB is a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana.

I understand I would be representing the Class II and III Railroads. I served as LPC Chairman, Vice Chairman and Chairman of the ASLRRA for 16 years, which gives me another unique understanding to the challenges Class II and III Railroads face in dealing in the energy sector. In my former career as serving as Chief Commercial Officer and then as Chief Strategy Officer of a large short line holding company, I was very involved with the daily grind of shifting of energy sources moving by rail in the United States.

I am able to attend both meetings scheduled per year. I certainly understand the balance and perspective the Board is seeking for RETAC and am willing to serve in that representative capacity.
My contact information is:

Ed McKechnie
3503 Natalini Ct.
Pittsburg, KS 66762

(620) 232-4184
ed@emcco.biz

I believe the next couple of years will offer several unique questions for the Board to consider in the Rail Energy Sector and I would appreciate the opportunity to serve one additional term on the Committee.

I would very much appreciate your favorable support.

With every best regard,

ED McKECHNIE

Cc: Tomeka Bryant, General Manager & Chief Strategy Office, NOPB