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Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 23)
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Acceptance of Nomination, Surface Transportation Board, RSTAC Small Shipper Vacancy

Dear Chairman and Members of the Surface Transportation Board,

I am writing to formally place my name for consideration as a Small Shipper representative on the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC). I am grateful for the consideration and enthusiastically embrace the opportunity to serve the Surface Transportation Board, the rail community, and, most importantly, the small shippers whose voices are critical to the health of our national transportation network.

For sixteen years, my work at H&K Group has placed me on the front lines of small shipper challenges. My daily operation involves managing a fleet of now 265 railcars that move roughly 10,000 carloads and coordinating with multiple railroads to ensure the consistent, reliable delivery of construction materials. These experiences have provided a deep, practical understanding of the issues RSTAC was created to address, including service reliability, fleet optimization, and the need for greater supply chain visibility.

As a member of RSTAC, I would bring a perspective grounded in real-world problem-solving. My efforts to reduce our fleet size while maintaining capacity and my work with Class I and Short Line railroads to improve service on a high-volume corridor are not theoretical examples; they are tangible solutions that were born out of necessity. By fostering collaborative dialogue and implementing innovative tools like GPS fleet tracking, we improved cycle times by 40% and demonstrated that meaningful change is possible when all parties are committed to a common goal.

I am a shipper who lives and breathes these challenges every day, and my background provides both hands-on and analytical experience. My educational foundation, including a Supply Chain & Information Systems degree from Penn State, gives me analytical tools that complement my hands-on experience. My commitment to this role extends beyond my own business, as demonstrated by my engagement with various transportation associations across the Pennsylvania and Delaware Valley region. This region represents a vital freight corridor that needs strong advocacy to support its economic development and to reduce truck traffic on our roadways.

My goal on RSTAC would be to serve as an effective and results-oriented advocate for the small shipper community. I am committed to working with all stakeholders to identify and address obstacles, foster mutually beneficial relationships, and advance the kind of practical, collaborative solutions that lead to a more efficient and reliable rail transportation system for everyone.

Thank you again for this opportunity. I look forward to the possibility of contributing to the important work of the Council.

Sincerely,

Lee Shelly

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lee Shelly".

Manager of Rail Operations,
H&K Group, Inc.
lshelly@hkgroup.com
484-368-9709