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August 8, 2025

Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No. 2)
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Office of Chief Counsel
August 8, 2025
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Public Record

RE: Nomination of Justin Schultz as Biofuel Refiner Representative to the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC)

Surface Transportation Board:

On behalf of the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA), the leading national trade association representing U.S. ethanol producers, I am pleased to nominate Justin Schultz for appointment to the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC) to serve as the representative for the biofuel refining sector.

Nominee Information:

Name: Justin Schultz
Interest Represented: Biofuel Refiners

Summary of Experience:

With more than 16 years in the ethanol industry, Justin Schultz brings a rare combination of operational leadership and regulatory expertise spanning rail transportation, environmental compliance, plant safety, and public policy. He serves as Director of Environment, Health, and Safety for RFA, leading the association's efforts on hazardous materials transportation, rail safety, emergency response, and feed regulatory issues. He works closely with DOT, OSHA, EPA, FDA, and PHMSA to ensure ethanol producers are effectively represented in regulatory development affecting the movement of renewable fuels and related feedstocks.

Justin also serves as a national instructor on food and feed safety under the FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), helping biofuel producers comply with requirements for distillers grains and imported fermentation inputs. He is a trusted industry voice on combustible dust mitigation, chemical safety, and transportation risk management.

He represents RFA on the Association of American Railroads (AAR) Tank Car Committee, where he plays a leading role in advancing technical standards, shaping regulatory frameworks, and promoting safer, more efficient ethanol movement across the North American rail network.

His work puts him in direct collaboration with Class I railroads, federal agencies, and fellow shippers on issues central to RETAC's mission.

Prior to RFA, Justin spent over a decade at Southwest Iowa Renewable Energy (SIRE), a 130-million-gallon ethanol biorefinery in Council Bluffs, Iowa. As Regulatory Manager, he led environmental compliance and operations and was responsible for rail logistics, transportation safety, and daily coordination with Class I carriers and federal regulators. His hands-on experience moving ethanol and distillers grains through complex rail systems gives him unique insight into the infrastructure and policy challenges facing the renewable fuels sector.

Justin is a decorated combat veteran and Bronze Star recipient with over 24 years of service in the U.S. Army Reserve. A career Infantry Officer, he currently holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and serves as an instructor at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, where he teaches strategic planning and national security policy. He completed two combat deployments to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

He also brings meaningful public-sector experience, having served two terms as an elected county supervisor in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, one of the state's largest counties by geography and economic output. In that role, he helped lead infrastructure investment planning, transportation policy development, and regional economic growth initiatives in coordination with local, state, and federal partners. He oversaw a \$120 million annual budget and supported rail-accessible industrial development. Justin holds a double Master's Degree in Public Administration and Public Policy from American University in Washington, D.C., and a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from the University of Iowa.

Justin Schultz's breadth of experience—from biofuel production and logistics to regulatory engagement, public leadership, and national security—makes him an exceptionally qualified candidate to serve as a representative for biofuel refiners on RETAC.

Representation and Agreement to Serve:

Mr. Schultz agrees to serve as a member of RETAC in a representative capacity and is willing to actively participate in all RETAC meetings and responsibilities for the full duration of the appointment, effective immediately upon selection.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact Troy Bredenkamp, RFA's Senior Vice President of Government and Public Affairs, at (202) 289-3835 or tbredenkamp@ethanolrfa.org.

Sincerely,

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

Geoff Cooper
President and CEO
Renewable Fuels Association