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Expanding America's Bioeconomy

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Office of Chief Counsel
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Patrick Fuchs
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee Nominations

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

I write you to nominate our Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, Chris Bliley, for the Surface Transportation Board's Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC). Mr. Bliley's addition to the Committee would greatly benefit the agency with his two decades of policy experience at the federal, state, and local level in transportation, fuel, and vehicle laws and regulations. He has extensive experience working not only on behalf of the nation's ethanol producers and marketers, but also with nearly all stakeholders involved in the transportation sector including government regulators, railroads, other rail shippers, agriculture and farm groups, refiners, fuel retailers, and numerous others.

During his tenure in Washington, Chris has worked in Congress, at EPA, and now on behalf of nearly 100 biofuel producers and associated businesses for Growth Energy, the largest biofuel trade association in the nation. Chris has worked on several major rail transportation issues including various regulatory and legislative changes to rail car standards at the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and as part of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. He has also been an active participant in various rail shipping coalitions, and his work has included dozens of technical comments and submissions. Furthermore, he is a participating member of EPA's Mobile Source Technical Review Subcommittee as well as the U.S. Grains and Bioproducts Council's Ethanol Advisory Team. Chris has also helped to manage several technical research and testing programs including recent E15 emissions testing at University of California Riverside and related evaporative emissions testing. I am confident that Chris has the expertise to help the RETAC in its mission.

I highly recommend Chris Bliley for a seat on the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee. As requested, I have attached Chris' resume and short biography. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or reach out to Chris directly at cbliley@growthenergy.org or (202)579-7418. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Emily Skor
CEO, Growth Energy

Chris Bliley

Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs

Growth Energy

1401 I Street NW, Suite 1220

Washington, DC 20005

Phone: (202)579-7418

Chris Bliley serves as Growth Energy's Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs. Chris handles all federal regulatory matters covering fuel, transportation and logistics, vehicle emission and air quality standards, as well as food safety. His responsibilities also include state fuel quality and labeling matters. Prior to joining Growth Energy in 2011, Chris was a Director at the Nussle Group, a Washington, D.C. based consulting firm. He served as the Associate Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency running the agency's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations from 2007 until 2009 under President George W. Bush. Bliley was also Chief of Staff and Legislative Director for Congressman Jim Nussle. Chris is a graduate of the University of Virginia and lives in Arlington, Virginia with his wife Allison and their two daughters.

Christopher P. Bliley

Cell Phone: (202) 579-7418

Experience

Growth Energy, Washington, DC

Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, January 2020 – Present

Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, January 2017 – December 2019

Director of Regulatory Affairs, February 2011 – January 2017

- Key member of the association's senior management team and leader of the association policy team.
- Participant in Board meetings and association strategic planning.
- Develops and implements the regulatory program of the world's largest association of renewable fuel producers, marketers, and supporters.
- Leads and creates the industry's response to all federal, state, and global regulatory and technical issues – including U.S. EPA's fuel, vehicle, and clean air regulations, Canada, and Brazil's clean fuel regulations, as well as California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard and Advanced Clean Car regulations amongst numerous others.
- On the record spokesperson with major media outlets, newspapers, and industry trade publications.
- Member of U.S. EPA's Mobile Source Technical Review Subcommittee and member of U.S. Grains Council Ethanol Advisory Team.

The Nussle Group, Alexandria, VA

Director, May 2009 - Present

- Key member of the Nussle Group team offering government and regulatory solutions, strategic planning, and consulting services to a wide array of corporate and association clients.
- The organization's primary representative before Congress and the executive branch on behalf of clients ranging from local community organizations to Fortune 500 companies.
- Identify business development and coalition opportunities for company and client growth.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC

Associate Administrator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, August 2007 – January 2009

- Key advisor to the Administrator and member of EPA senior policy team.
- Directed the Agency's review of legislation, coordination of EPA's formal position and technical assistance to Congress on all environmental matters including clean air, water, toxics, pesticides, superfund, emergency response and enforcement.
- Managed environmental issues with national government associations as well as individual State and local governments through key relationships with Governors, state environmental commissioners, and other key local officials.
- Managed the development and implementation of the Agency's legislative agenda.
- Directed a sixty person staff to implement the strategic goals representing the Agency before Congress, states, and local governments.
- Coordinated all agency representation and testimony before Congressional committees.
- Developed comprehensive hiring plan and strategic goals for the office and direct the hiring of key agency personnel.
- Held a Top-Secret level security clearance.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC

Director, Office of Public Outreach, January 2007- August 2007

- Managed and supervised staff and operations of the EPA Office of Public Liaison and EPA Office of Product Review.
- Established and maintained close working relationships with a broad range of public and private sector stakeholders to promote involvement in Agency decision making.
- Identified and established opportunities for public/private partnerships with national trade associations, conservation and environmental groups, and other non-governmental organizations.
- Worked with senior EPA leadership to address stakeholder concerns regarding Agency and environmental matters.
- Identified and executed outreach opportunities for the EPA Administrator and other senior EPA leadership.
- Served as the primary contact for planning, development, and review of all Agency print and electronic products intended for the public.
- Schedule C political appointee.

U.S. Representative Jim Nussle, Washington, DC

Chief of Staff, July 2005 – January 2007

- Initiated, developed, and executed strategic plans for policy, communications, operations, and outreach for the Congressman.
- Managed and supervised all operations and staff for the Congressman.
- Supervised and directed \$1.8 million office budget.
- Principal policy advisor to the Chairman of the House Budget Committee and senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee.
- Represented the Congressman to constituents, associations, corporations, and other interests.
- Member of House Budget Committee senior staff charged with development of the key components of the annual \$2.7 trillion federal budget.

Legislative Director, July 2001 – June 2005

- Worked with the Congressman to develop and draft his legislative agenda for the 107th, 108th and 109th Congresses.
- Worked extensively with committee staff to revise and draft major legislation on taxes, pensions, health care, and trade.
- Coordinated community economic development with federal resources through the appropriations process.

Education

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Affairs, 1995

Bachelor of Arts in History, 1995

Eagle Scout