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essentialminerals.org

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Office of Chief Counsel

January 12, 2026

Part of
Public Record

January 12, 2026

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs, Chairman
The Honorable Michelle A. Schultz, Member
The Honorable Karen J. Hedlund, Member
Surface Transportation Board
595 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Submitted Electronically

Re: Notice of Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC) Vacancies; Docket: EP 526 (Sub-No. 24)

Dear Chairman Fuchs and the STB Board,

On behalf of the membership at the Essential Minerals Association (EMA), I am writing today to nominate Mr. Gary Plant to fill the large shipper representative vacancy on the RSTAC, announced on December 12 in the Federal Register (90 FR 57806). Mr. Plant is the Supply Chain Director for Tata Chemicals North America, one of the largest producers of domestic soda ash in Green River, Wyoming. In addition to this role, Mr. Plant has volunteered extensively with EMA, supporting the broader industry's involvement in transportation issues. This has presented Mr. Plant with the unique opportunity to understand and appreciate the challenges faced by mineral production and processing efforts nationwide, including shippers of *all* sizes. Not only is Mr. Plant heavily involved in EMA, but he further serves to support downstream users of the soda ash that Tata Chemicals produces. Mr. Plant volunteers his time to the glass industry, for which soda ash is a key input, in his role as the Chairman of the Glass Industry Supply Chain Council. Mr. Plant would be an exceptional addition to the RSTAC team.

EMA serves as the representative voice for the minerals industry. Our member companies produce or process raw materials not only critical to all aspects of everyday life, but also essential to the national security of the United States. These minerals provide inputs into manufacturing and technology needs, into agriculture from fertilizers to animal feeds, and into energy uses such as drilling fluids. As the members of the Surface Transportation Board knows from your 2023 trip to visit the soda ash facilities in Green River, Wyoming, rail management is inherent to the success of the domestic mineral industry. Affordable and reliable rail options remain ongoing challenges for all mineral producers and processors.

I am confident in Mr. Plant's qualifications and experience to serve on the RSTAC. In his role at Tata Chemicals, Mr. Plant is responsible for developing and managing supply chain strategy, rail fleet capacity and planning, sea freight and export capability, and financial planning for the movement of soda ash, an essential mineral produced in Wyoming. Before this, Mr. Plant held leadership positions with large transportation, supply chain, and consulting companies. As SVP at Savage Companies, Mr. Plant was responsible for successfully integrating and leading the CANAC acquisition from the CN Railroad, including an array of industrial rail switching contracts, international rail consulting, and rail engineering and maintenance operations.

In addition to Mr. Plant's current role at Tata Chemicals, he leads Ascendys Consulting, focusing on helping business leaders improve both operations and business performance. This lens on leadership, in addition to his experience collaborating with multiple business functions and a diverse customer base, makes Mr. Plant well-rounded in his knowledge and experience relevant to the broader impacts of surface transportation decisions.

I would like to thank the members of the Surface Transportation Board for the opportunity to nominate Mr. Gary Plant to the Council. I am confident that Mr. Plant's appointment to the RSTAC would bring valuable insights, grounded in decades of experience planning and implementing rail transportation efforts. We appreciate all of the great work the Board has done over the years to ensure a competitive rail network for all users. Should any additional information be required, please contact me at chrisgreissing@essentialminerals.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Greissing". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" being more prominent than the last name "Greissing".

Chris Greissing
President, Essential Minerals Association





January 12, 2026

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs, Chairman
The Honorable Michelle A. Schultz, Member
The Honorable Karen J. Hedlund, Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Submitted Electronically

Re: Self-Nomination for Appointment as a Large Shipper Representative to the Rail Shipper
Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC)

Dear Chairman Fuchs and Members of the Surface Transportation Board:

Pursuant to the Surface Transportation Board's Federal Register notice soliciting nominations for vacancies on the Rail Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC), I hereby submit my self-nomination for appointment to fill a large shipper vacancy as noticed in the Federal Register on Friday, December 12, 2025 (90 FR 57806) regarding Docket No. Ep 526 (Sub-No.24).

I have served as Supply Chain Director for Tata Chemicals North America (TCNA) since 2019. A global leader in soda ash, TCNA has been producing high-quality sodium carbonate since 1968, supporting industries like glass, detergent, paper, and clean water with this essential raw material. Headquartered in Green River, Wyoming, TCNA operates one of the largest natural soda ash (also known as sodium carbonate) operations in North America at Green River, Wyoming where it mines naturally occurring trona ore and refines it into soda ash. The facility spans tens of square miles and includes both extraction and processing plants, running 24/7 to supply both domestic manufacturers and export markets via rail transport. As Supply Chain Director, I am responsible for developing and managing supply chain strategy, rail fleet capacity and planning, sea freight and export capability, and financial planning for the global logistical movement and delivery of soda ash. As you may recall, I had the opportunity to meet you and the other Surface Transportation Board (STB) Members during your visit to the soda ash producers in the state of Wyoming in May of 2023 and we have interacted multiple times in the past in conjunction with your visits with the Glass Industry Supply Chain Council (GISCC), where I serve as the Chairman of the Management Council.

Rail plays a critical role in bolstering TCNA's supply chain resilience. Rail's high payload capacity significantly reduces per-ton shipping cost, which is vital for commodities like soda ash where margins depend on efficient logistics. In addition, dedicated rail switching agreements ensure consistent throughput and avoid bottlenecks. Finally, rail reduces dependence on over-the-road haulage and congested port or highway networks and also provides redundancy in case of road closures or fuel price volatility.

TATA CHEMICALS NORTH AMERICA INC.

111 East Sego Lily Drive • Suite 200 • Sandy, Utah 84070 • Phone 800.819.8568 • Fax 801.406.7023



I believe that my prior work experience at TCNA would bring valuable knowledge and insights to the RSTAC if I were selected to fill the current large shipper vacancy. In addition, prior to my current role at TCNA, I previously led the Rail Solutions Unit at Savage Companies, managing a group of short-line railroads, rail transload sites, 3rd Party Switching operations, and rail consulting and engineering services. Also, at American President Lines (APL), I led the global automotive sector, which provided rail and logistics management services to various automotive manufacturers, both in the United States and abroad. While serving at APL, I served as a member of the leadership team overseeing our rail stacktrain services to our North American customers.

I therefore would be honored to serve as a member of RSTAC. I believe that my decades of experience planning and implementing all rail transportation efforts gives me a specialized lens into the challenges of mineral producers, automotive manufacturers, container shippers, transload operators and other similarly situated shippers that face the challenges of managing resilient supply chains and providing efficient delivery of products to end consumers. In addition, I am confident that I fulfill all the necessary RSTAC requirements, as I am a United States citizen and immediately available to serve as member of RSTAC.

Thank you for your consideration of my nomination. Please contact me if additional information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Plant
Director – Supply Chain
Tata Chemicals North America (TCNA)

GLASS INDUSTRY SUPPLY CHAIN COUNCIL
1000 Jackson Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
419-344-2134

January 5, 2026

Patrick Fuchs
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Railroad-Shipper Advisory Council

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

We would like to support the nomination of Gary Plant to the Railroad-Shipper Advisory Council. He is the current Chair of the Management Committee of GISCC and he is extremely knowledgeable regarding current issues facing the railroads and shippers. Gary is focused on finding solutions to issues in a spirit of seeking cooperative resolutions to shipper and rail matters and he is uniquely qualified for considerations for this important committee.

As you may recall from our previous conversations, GISCC is the national transportation trade association of the U.S. glass industry and its material suppliers.

I appreciate your consideration of this recommendation.

Respectfully Yours,

/s/Michael M. Briley

Michael M. Briley
General Counsel & Secretary of the
Glass Industry Supply Chain Council

Glass Industry Supply Chain Council

Patrick Fuchs
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423
January 8, 2026

Dear Patrick Fuchs, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Hi Patrick.

I am writing a letter in support of Mr Gary Plant, Director Supply Chain TATA Chemicals North America Inc. at 111 East Sego Lily Drive, Suite 200 in Sandy, UT 84070 whose name will be submitted for one of the RSTAC position by the Essential Minerals Association

I have known and been around Gary for 10 years both as the Chairman of the Alliance for Rail Competition and as Treasurer of the Glass Industry Supply Chain Council. He is a thinker about rail and transportation issues and the kind of person I would love to have included on the Board of the Alliance for Rail Competition had there been room.

As you know I have worked with RSTAC over the years and greatly admired the work they and you have done together.

I think Gary would be a great choice and asset.

Sincerely,



Terry Whiteside, Treasurer of Glass Industry Supply Chain Council
372 Zion Circle
Billings, Montana 59102
Phone: 406-671-8153
email: Terryofmontana@gmail.com
GISCC website: [Glass Industry Supply Chain Council](http://GlassIndustrySupplyChainCouncil.org)

GARY L. PLANT

Bountiful, Utah

gplant@tatachemicals.com

(385) 232-6935

www.linkedin.com/in/garylplant

SENIOR SUPPLY CHAIN LEADER

Senior business leader with supply chain, operations and business unit leader experience working in the logistics, transportation, chemical & automotive manufacturing industries. Expertise leading business units, guiding turnaround initiatives, solving supply chain issues, building & empowering work teams, directing & executing strategic planning, developing future business leaders and delivering consistent and measurable profitability which exceeds organizational goals.

CORE COMPETENCIES THAT DRIVE RESULTS

Unit Leadership
Turnarounds
P&L/Cost Mgt

Supply Chain Planning
S&OP Implementation
Fleet Management

Procurement Sea, Truck, Rail Intermodal

Strategic Planning Communication Team Building

DELIVERING RESULTS TO THE BOTTOM LINE

- Delivered \$12.5M in cost savings through renegotiation of Tata's coal supply agreement.
- Led a Tata initiative to reduce railcar lease and storage charges saving \$9.8M in annual costs.
- Grew Savage RS Unit revenue 110% and profitability 220% over 4 years ending with FY18.
- Led Savage Strategic Planning & Acquisitions. Organization grew ROE at 15% during period.
- Contributed to unprecedented growth, increasing Celerant revenue 85%; profit 500% in 5 years
- Led turnaround at APL Automotive Logistics unit growing revenue 65% and profit 21%
- As CFO with APT, grew trucking start-up to \$65M Revenue, 800 Drivers and 12 locations.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

TATA CHEMICALS NORTH AMERICA, Salt Lake City, UT
Director – Supply Chain

2019 - Current

Lead Tata's supply chain team. Accountable for the development and implementation of strategic and operating plans to ensure the company has appropriate resources to support the business and meet forecasted growth.

- Delivered \$12.5M in cost savings through renegotiation of Tata's coal supply agreement.
- Led Tata initiatives that reduced transportation, lease & storage charges \$12M annually.

GLASS INDUSTRY SUPPLY CHAIN COUNCIL (GISCC)
Chairman of Management Committee

2023- Current

GISCC is a national transportation trade association of the US glass industry and its raw material suppliers. Membership has a collective spend of over \$3 Billion per year.

SAVAGE COMPANIES, Salt Lake City, UT
Senior Vice President – Rail Solutions Unit

2004 - 2018

Led Rail Solutions Unit serving industrial customers at 20+locations. Other businesses included a rail maintenance services unit, an international rail consulting unit and 2 short line railroads.

- Grew Rail Solutions revenue 110% and profitability 220% over four years ending with FY18.
- Received “Founders Award” for special achievement and contributions to organization

Senior Vice President – Strategic Planning and Acquisitions

Led the Strategic Planning and Acquisition activities for Savage.

- Led Savage Strategic Planning & Acquisitions. Organization grew ROE at 15% during period.
- Designed acquisition start-up and implementation tools to facilitate the onboarding process.

Senior Vice President – CANAC Railway Services

Provider of global rail switching, engineering, capacity planning, training and consulting.

- Created strategic marketing and investment plan to rehabilitate its P811 Track Renewal assets which drove a \$12M Revenue and \$5M P&L improvement over a four-year period.

CELERANT CONSULTING, Cambridge, MA

2000 - 2004

Vice President – Operations Director, North America Region

A global operational strategy and implementation consultancy. Directed operations and led multiple consulting teams in executing organization and process change management initiatives.

- Expanded North American Region revenue 85% and profit 500% during tenure

PRICEWATERHOUSECOPPERS, Detroit, MI

1998 - 1999

Director – Automotive Supply Chain Management & Strategic Planning Consulting

Led automotive supply chain and strategic direction consulting initiatives

- Led development of ASEAN Logistics/Customs supply chain strategy for Ford Motor Company

APL, LTD. (AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES), Oakland, CA/Detroit, MI

1987 - 1998

Vice President - Global Automotive Market

Led global automotive logistics and transportation business units

- Directed market expansion and diversification initiative that increased revenues 44%.
- Developed and negotiated APL's first automotive international logistics management contracts.

Managing Director - APL Automotive Logistics (North America)

President - VASCOR Logistics

Directed North America automotive services Unit; President of VASCOR Logistics, partner in a JV with two Japanese companies with responsibilities to serve Toyota's first US manufacturing plant.

Director of APL Quality and Business Planning - North America

Led and Division's (TQM) Quality Initiative & Business Planning process

- Designed/Implemented Business Planning/Reporting process adopted as APL-wide standard.

Chief Financial Officer, Director of Finance (American President Trucking, Co.)

Guided trucking unit start-up. Developed operation sites to serve short and long-haul objectives.

- Grew APT to \$65 million in revenues, 800 drivers/contractors, and 12 locations within 4 years.

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Manager, Accounting & Financial Reporting; RYDER FREIGHT SYSTEM, Salt Lake City, UT

Senior Accountant, DELOITTE HASKINS & SELLS, CPA, Salt Lake City, UT

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah - **MBA & BA Accounting & Finance**, *magna cum laude*
Certified Public Accountant