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U.S. Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No. 2)
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Nomination of Gerald “JB” Holliday – Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee

Dear Members of the Board:

On behalf of the National Coal Transportation Association (NCTA), it is my pleasure to give my highest recommendation for **Gerald “JB” Holliday**, Director of Transportation for American Consolidated Natural Resources, Inc. (ACNR), to fill the coal producer vacancy on the Surface Transportation Board’s Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC).

JB is exceptionally well qualified to represent the **coal producer interest** on RETAC. He has worked in energy transportation for 37 years and brings a breadth of practical operating experience encompassing rail, inland waterways, truck transportation, terminals, and the critical interfaces among those modes. In his current position as Director of Transportation for ACNR, he is responsible for the rail, river, and truck movement of the company’s coal production to domestic utility and industrial customers and to export terminals, including the East Coast and the Gulf.

ACNR is a major privately held U.S. coal producer headquartered in St. Clairsville, Ohio, operating four active underground longwall mines in northern West Virginia. Its coal moves to market by unit train, river barge, and truck. JB therefore deals every day with many of the transportation issues RETAC was established to address, including rail service reliability, equipment and crew availability, cycle times, infrastructure and terminal constraints, and coordination among coal producers, rail carriers, waterways, terminals, and energy customers.

What particularly distinguishes JB is that his understanding of these issues comes from decades of direct operating experience. He began his career aboard commercial vessels on the Ohio River in 1989 and earned his Captain’s license in 1994, which he continues to hold. After joining Ohio Valley Transloading Co. in 2001, he served as Harbor Manager from 2013 to 2018, overseeing barge fleet, loading, unit train management and scheduling, and terminal operations. He moved into a corporate Rail Transportation Manager position in 2018 and became Director of Transportation for ACNR in 2020.

That career progression gives JB a unique comprehensive understanding of how the pieces of the energy transportation system fit together. He knows rail transportation from the shipper’s perspective, but he also understands the operational realities at terminals and

on the inland waterways. That perspective would be especially valuable to a committee whose mission includes fostering communication and coordination among energy suppliers, railroads, and users.

My direct business relationship with JB arises through his service as a member of the NCTA Board of Directors. NCTA brings together coal producers, consumers, railroads, transportation providers, and other stakeholders with the shared goal of promoting safe, economical, and reliable transportation of coal and coal-related commodities. JB also serves on the National Mining Association Transportation Committee. Through these roles, he regularly engages with railroads, utilities, barge and terminal operators, coal producers, and other shippers on many of the same transportation issues considered by RETAC.

I believe JB would bring to RETAC exactly the kind of candid, knowledgeable, and practical coal-producer perspective envisioned by the Board. His experience will allow him not only to identify transportation challenges but also to understand their operational causes and contribute constructively toward solutions.

JB has confirmed that **he is willing to serve as a member of RETAC for the three-year term ending September 30, 2029, and that he agrees to serve in a representative capacity on behalf of the coal producer interest.**

I am pleased to nominate Gerald “JB” Holliday for appointment to the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee and recommend him without reservation. I would be pleased to answer any questions or provide additional information regarding his qualifications.

Respectfully,



John N. Ward

Executive Director
National Coal Transportation Association
9980 S. 300 West, Suite 200
Sandy, UT 84070
Cell: 801.560.9801
john@movecoal.org

Candidate Business Contact Information

Gerald “JB” Holliday
Director of Transportation
American Consolidated Natural Resources, Inc.
Email: jbholliday@acnrinc.com
Office: (740) 338-3369
Cell: (740) 391-2787