

August 19th, 2026

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

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
September 11, 2026
Part of
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
Position:	Director – Environment, Health and Safety
Interest Represented:	Biofuel Refiners
Email:	jschultz@ethanolrfa.org
Phone:	(314) 413-5534

Summary of Experience:

With 17 years of experience in the ethanol industry, Justin brings an unusually broad combination of plant-level operational experience, rail and hazardous materials expertise, regulatory leadership, and national industry engagement. He currently serves as RFA's Director of Environment, Health, and Safety, leading the association's work on rail safety, hazardous materials transportation, emergency response, workplace safety, environmental compliance, and regulatory issues affecting the movement of ethanol and its coproducts.

Justin works directly with DOT, PHMSA, OSHA, EPA, FDA, rail carriers, equipment owners, and other industry stakeholders on issues affecting ethanol producers. He also represents RFA on the Association of American Railroads Tank Car Committee, where he participates in technical and policy discussions involving tank car standards, hazardous materials transportation, and the safe and efficient movement of ethanol across the North American rail network.

What makes Justin especially well-suited for RETAC is that his national policy experience is grounded in more than a decade of direct ethanol plant experience. Prior to joining RFA, he spent over ten years at Southwest Iowa Renewable Energy (SIRE), a 130-million-gallon-per-year ethanol biorefinery in Council Bluffs, Iowa. As Regulatory Manager, he worked closely with plant operations and was responsible for environmental compliance, transportation safety, rail

logistics, hazardous materials requirements, and coordination with Class I rail carriers and federal regulators.

That background gives Justin a perspective few candidates can match. He understands firsthand how rail performance, service reliability, capacity constraints, equipment availability, infrastructure limitations, and disruptions affect an ethanol plant's ability to operate and move product. Today, he brings that plant-level perspective to his work representing ethanol producers.

Justin is also an OSHA-authorized Outreach Trainer for General Industry, qualified to provide OSHA 10- and 30-hour training, and serves as a national instructor on food and feed safety under FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act. He is a trusted industry resource on transportation safety, combustible dust, chemical safety, emergency preparedness, and regulatory compliance.

Beyond the ethanol industry, Justin is a decorated combat veteran and Bronze Star recipient with 25 years of service in the U.S. Army. A Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, he completed two combat deployments to Afghanistan and currently serves as an instructor at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He also served two terms as an elected Pottawattamie County Supervisor in Iowa, where he worked on infrastructure, transportation, economic development, and public investment.

Justin holds master's degrees in public administration and public policy from American University, as well as a bachelor's degree in international relations from the University of Iowa.

Justin's combination of hands-on ethanol plant experience, direct shipper perspective, national rail and tank car involvement, federal regulatory engagement, and proven leadership makes him exceptionally qualified to represent the biofuel sector on RETAC. He would bring immediate credibility, practical experience, and a strong industry voice to the Committee from his first meeting.

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,



Geoff Cooper
President and CEO
Renewable Fuels Association



Justin Schultz

Combat Veteran | Community Leader | Proud Father

Profile

Results-driven professional with over 25 years of military and civilian leadership experience and more than 17 years in the renewable fuels industry. Former two-term county elected official with extensive experience in plant-level operations, rail logistics, hazardous materials transportation, regulatory affairs, safety, compliance training, and legislative policymaking. Proven ability to work collaboratively with ethanol producers, rail carriers, equipment owners, federal regulators, and industry stakeholders to address transportation, service reliability, infrastructure, and regulatory challenges affecting the renewable fuels industry.

Experience

● Renewable Fuels Association

Director, Environment, Health and Safety | 2023 - Present

- Provide OSHA compliance guidance, technical assistance, and training to ethanol production facilities
- Coordinate with OSHA, EPA, FRA, and state agencies to advance EH&S and regulatory initiatives.
- Lead the Veterans for Renewable Fuels (VRF) special project, advancing veteran engagement and strengthening workforce development.

● United States Army Reserve

CGSC Instructor - Infantry - Lieutenant Colonel/O5 | 2024 - Present

- Instruct field grade officers in the Command and General Staff Officers Course, focusing on strategy, operations, and organizational leadership.
- Mentor officers through academic and practical exercises to prepare them for advanced command and staff responsibilities.

● Southwest Iowa Renewable Energy

Regulatory Manager | 2009 - 2023

- Managed regulatory, safety, rail logistics, hazardous materials, and compliance programs for a 130-million-gallon ethanol production facility.
- Coordinated directly with Class I rail carriers, regulators, and industry partners on transportation, service, and compliance matters.

● Iowa Army National Guard

Senior Range Operations Officer - Infantry - Major/O4 | 2000 - 2024

- Led Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center as the Officer in Charge (OIC)
- Veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom - Afghanistan : 2004-05 and 2010-11.

● Pottawattamie County

Board of Supervisors | 2015 - 2023

- Served two elected terms overseeing county government, infrastructure, transportation, economic development, and public investment.

Education

● Master's Degree

American University, Washington D.C. | 2021

Public Administration & Public Policy

● Bachelor's Degree

University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA | 2007

Political Science - International Relations & Foreign Policy

● Leadership Iowa

Association of Business and Industry (ABI), Des Moines, IA | 2019

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Skills

Leadership

Strategic Planning

Public Policy Development

Public Speaking

Budgeting

Regulatory Affairs

Rail & Transportation Logistics

Achievements

Bronze Star Medal recipient

Appointed to the Association of
American Railroads (AAR)
Tank Car Committee

National Association of
Counties High Performance
Leadership Academy Graduate

Appointed to Pottawattamie
County, Iowa Planning &
Zoning Commission

Memberships and Certifications



Bureau of Explosives
HAZMAT Certification



Leadership Iowa
Board of Governors



FDA Certified Instructor
Preventive Controls for
Animal Food Safety



OSHA Outreach Trainer



U.S. Army Command and
General Staff College
(CGSC) - Certified
Instructor, ASI 5K

Contact

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