



VOSS Clark

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January 28, 2024

Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Karen Hedlund, Acting Chair, STB
395 E Street, S.W., Washington,
DC 20423-0001.

307898

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
February 5, 2024
Part of
Public Record

Re: Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No.1); Nomination of Peter A. Gilbertson to the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee

Dear Ms. Hedlund,

I, Douglas Voss, am pleased to nominate Peter A. Gilbertson, President & CEO of Anacostia Rail Holdings Company (Anacostia), for membership on the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) newly created Passenger Railroad Advisory Committee (PRAC). With a career spanning over thirty years, Mr. Gilbertson has demonstrated a commitment to advancing the efficiency, safety, and prosperity of freight rail services in our nation. As a leader in the shortline industry Mr. Gilbertson would be an informed advocate to represent the interests of Class II and Class III railroads on the PRAC.

Mr. Gilbertson is the founder of Anacostia, which owns and operates (among other entities) Chicago South Shore & South Bend Railroad Company (CSS), Louisville & Indiana Railroad Company, New York & Atlantic Railway Company (NYA), Northern Lines Railway, LLC, and Pacific Harbor Line, Inc. In his role as President & CEO of Anacostia, he has initiatives that have propelled the freight railroad sector forward. Mr. Gilbertson has successfully implemented strategic measures to optimize freight operations, enhance infrastructure, and address the evolving challenges within the industry.

Mr. Gilbertson is aware of the complicated nature of, and collaboration required for, operating a Class II/Class III railroads on the same tracks as an active commuter line. Anacostia affiliates CSS and NYA, operate in two of the busiest commuter rail transportation corridors in the United States. CSS operates between Chicago, IL, and South Bend, IN and on the same tracks as the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD). While NYA, which began its franchise in 1996, operates on the same tracks as the Long Island Rail Road Company (LIRR), the largest commuter railroad in the United States.

Further, the LIRC Indianapolis-Louisville corridor is part of the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) FY22 Corridor Identification and Development, Corridor ID, program, for consideration of new Amtrak service. Known as the "Kentucky Cardinal," this route previously had active passenger service in the early 2000's. In 2002, LIRC and Mr. Gilbertson negotiated and contracted with Amtrak for passenger service on this corridor.



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In 2019, the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) selected Mr. Gilbertson to receive the Thomas L. Schlosser Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his service to the short line industry over a thirty-plus year career. Early in his career, Mr. Gilbertson wrote a book on how to start a shortline railroad. Considered by many to be the short line railroad bible, Mr. Gilbertson's book, co-authored by fellow railroad attorney Larry McCaffrey, detailed every aspect of short line operations, from acquisition to negotiating regulatory hurdles.

Throughout his career, Mr. Gilbertson has collaborated with industry stakeholders, regulatory bodies, and community leaders, fostering partnerships that have contributed to the growth and sustainability of freight rail services. He represented ASLRRA in negotiations with the Association of American Railroads (AAR) that led to the "Rail Industry Agreement" and chaired the STB Railroad Shipper Transportation Advisory Council. Mr. Gilbertson is an alternating member of the board of the AAR and a member of the board of trustees of the University of Denver. His ability to navigate regulatory landscapes, coupled with an understanding of freight transportation dynamics, positions Mr. Gilbertson as an ideal candidate to contribute valuable perspectives to PRAC.

I am confident Mr. Gilbertson will bring strategic vision and valuable insight from the shortline perspective to PRAC. His track record of navigating challenges and fostering innovation within the railroad industry will enrich PRAC's efforts to enhance rail transportation across the nation. Mr. Gilbertson can be reached in the following manner:

Peter A. Gilbertson
224 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 330
Chicago, IL 60604
312-324-7350
pgilbertson@anacostia.com

I endorse Mr. Gilbertson for this position and believe his appointment would benefit the PRAC. Mr. Gilbertson has confirmed, and represents, that he would be willing to serve as a member of PRAC for the full three (3) year term and in a representative capacity. Thank you for considering this nomination, and I look forward to the positive impact Mr. Gilbertson will continue to make on the future of rail transportation in our country.

Sincerely,

Douglas P Voss

Managing Director – Voss Clark