

August 15, 2018

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Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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Office of Proceedings
August 16, 2018
Part of
Public Record

Re: Ex Parte No. 670 (Sub-No. 2), *Notice of Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee Vacancies*

Dear Ms. Brown:

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) supports the nomination of Bette J. Whalen to serve as a member of the Surface Transportation Board's Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC).

Bette Whalen has over fifteen years of experience working in a senior capacity on fuel and fuel transportation issues at Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). She understands the challenges of competing fuel sources used to generate electric power. She has experience and expertise working with railroads and managing rail transportation. She has served as an officer of the Western Coal Traffic League for over seven years, the last three as President, and has been actively engaged in the service and rate issues that are vital to coal shippers. This experience gives her broad insight into how utilities and railroads interact with each other.

NRECA believes that Bette Whalen will be a strong addition to RETAC therefore we recommend that the Board act favorably on her nomination.

Respectfully yours,



Kirk Johnson,
Sr. VP Government Relations