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August 13, 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

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

Dear Ms. Brown:

I write on behalf of the American Public Power Association ("APPA") to express our strong support for the nomination of Bette J. Whalen to serve as a member of the Surface Transportation Board's Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC).

APPA is the organization of the nation's not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities. Many of APPA's members generate electric power from coal to meet their power generation needs. It is vital to APPA that the RETAC include experienced and well-informed representatives from public power utilities such as the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), which is a valued member of APPA.

Bette Whalen is an ideal candidate to present public power's perspective to the RETAC. She has over fifteen years of experience working at a senior capacity on fuel and fuel transportation issues at LCRA. She understands the opportunities and challenges that utilities face with coal and coal transportation. She has substantial experience and expertise working with railroads and managing rail transportation. Her qualifications are further enhanced by her participation in the Western Coal Traffic League, where she has been an officer for over seven years and served as President for the last three.

APPA believes Bette Whalen will be an excellent addition to the RETAC and its activities, and we request that the Board act favorably on her nomination.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan N. Kelly".

Susan N. Kelly
President & CEO