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

Re: AFPM Response to the Surface Transportation Board Decision Document, “Notice of Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee Vacancy” (August 4, 2017, 82 FR 37283)

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

In the August 9, 2017, *Federal Register*, the Surface Transportation Board (“STB” or the “Board”) solicited suggestions from the public for a candidate to fill a vacancy on the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (“RETAC”). The American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (“AFPM”) is pleased to submit the name of Kent Avery, Vice President of Commercial Asset Optimization, PBF Refining as a highly qualified candidate for the RETAC.

AFPM’s Interest in STB’s RETAC

AFPM is a national trade association representing approximately 400 companies that encompass virtually all U.S. refining and petrochemical manufacturing capacity. AFPM member companies rely on a safe, reliable, and efficient rail system to move gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, and the chemical building blocks that are used to make millions of products to and from refineries and petrochemical facilities. AFPM members have a keen interest in the transportation by rail of both refined and petrochemical products. AFPM members are both users and customers of our nation’s great rail system and therefore are keenly interested safe and efficient rail transportation. Further, AFPM member companies employ leading experts in the fields of petrochemical manufacturing, refining, and rail transportation.

AFPM recognizes the integral role the STB plays in ensuring the efficient and free flow of energy products by rail. STB’s RETAC provides essential, independent, and candid policy advice to the Board. Further, RETAC fosters open, effective communication on issues such as rail performance, capacity constraints, infrastructure planning and development, and effective coordination among suppliers, railroads, and users of energy resources.

AFPM Endorsed Candidate for STB’s RETAC Vacancy

AFPM strongly supports the nomination of Kent Avery. Kent would serve as a great resource for RETAC and significantly support the goals of the committee. His distinguished qualifications are discussed below and in the attached CV.

Kent Avery is currently the Vice President of Commercial Asset Optimization at PBF Refining and in this capacity, he is responsible for PBF’s entire rail portfolio. Ken’s extensive career spans 27 years and includes experience in both rail operations and business development

environments. Kent spent the first 16 years of his career with Union Pacific Railroad (“UP”) where he gained valuable experience working in the operating department, terminal operations, and dispatching.

At UP, Ken started with the Intermodal group and shortly thereafter moved into mainstream operations where he was promoted to Director of Terminals. In this capacity, he was responsible for safety, regulatory compliance, and operations of UP’s Chicago Yard. UP leadership then selected Kent to be part of their Management Development Program. Upon graduating from the program, Kent became the Senior Director of the Northern region and was responsible for safely dispatching the majority of coal and grain for UP. His success in this position led Kent to again be promoted to run UP’s Spring Dispatching Center (“SDC”) in Spring, Texas, where he worked collaboratively with two other Class I railroads, running the daily operations and coordinating movements to and from Mexico.

After leaving UP, Kent moved to OmniTRAX, where he was responsible for running their intermodal business. Kent’s work included overseeing the operations of seven shortline railroads. Between his work at OmniTRAX and UP, Kent worked with both Class I and shortline railroads, and therefore understands the complex issues both face.

Kent transitioned from operations-focused roles into business development with Savage Services (“Savage”). At Savage, Kent managed rail development projects and grew the Savage rail platform significantly. Specifically, Kent oversaw the development of support yards for refiners and rail infrastructure projects, including those at the Trenton Terminal in Trenton, North Dakota, and a PBF Energy complex in Delaware City, Delaware. In this capacity, Kent developed operating agreements and gained an extensive understanding of many of the complexities and challenges rail customers face when negotiating with the railroads. Most recently, Kent worked for Cenovus Energy, where he expanded their business by developing their rail and pipeline footprint. Kent also serves on BNSF Railway’s Customer Advisory Board.

Kent has a wealth of knowledge that would strongly benefit STB’s RETAC. He has experience with various types of railroads, and with users and customers of the rail network. Further, Kent has extensive operating and business development experience in the rail industry that would be a great asset for the RETAC. As a member of the RETAC, Kent would represent the interests of users, customers, and operators of the rail system due to his extensive experience with stakeholders across the board.

Conclusion

AFPM supports a safe, reliable, and efficient rail system, and the role STB’s RETAC plays in ensuring high quality rail service for all commerce, including energy products. With this in mind, AFPM strongly supports the nomination of Kent Avery for STB’s RETAC. Kent has expressed a strong willingness to serve as a member of the RETAC for the length of the term and to do so in a representative capacity. AFPM is confident that Kent would greatly benefit RETAC due to his experience in the rail and energy industries, as well as his collaborative nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Benedict". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "B".

Rob Benedict
Director, Transportation and Infrastructure



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Kent Avery

Vice-President
Commercial Asset Optimization

As the Vice President of Commercial Asset Optimization Kent is accountable for the optimization of all terminal agreements, freight contracts and rail car management. across the various commodities in the PBF network. Kent and his team also are responsible for rail regulatory compliance.

Prior to joining PBF Energy Inc. Kent served as the Vice-President, Land Transportation. Kent was accountable for managing all crude, diluent, natural gas pipeline commitments as well as the development of Cenovus's crude-by-rail strategy. Prior to Cenovus, Kent was the Senior Vice-President & Business Unit Leader, Petroleum Rail Solutions at Savage Services Corporation, a privately held operator, provider and developer of innovative railway supply chain solutions in Salt Lake City, Utah. He has extensive experience in railroad operations and business development involving the movement of oil and other petroleum products via rail. He held increasingly senior positions at Omnitrac Inc. and Union Pacific Railroad, where he began his career following his graduation with a bachelor of arts degree in Organizational & Industrial Psychology from Miami University in 1989.