

Katherine Bourdon
Attorney Advisor
Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs & Compliance
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
202-245-0285
Katherine.Bourdon@stb.gov
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Dear Katherine Bourdon,

I am writing here to nominate myself to be appointed to the STB Advisory Board.

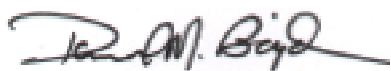
My list of experience in the rail industry relates to leasing railcars, having worked in rail finance for LaSalle Bank, having worked on railcar door designs and other railcar safety designs for General Motors. (I even met Mr. Tom Giovinazzi when he was at GM.) I also had a stint at Detroit Edison in the rail logistics department. Also in my past, I worked in design for Lionel Trains, the toy train manufacturer in Detroit, MI and while there, Neil Young, the rock star purchased the company. I also have been in the Army National Guard here in Massachusetts and Michigan. I also was a train conductor for Guilford Transportation for (4) years, which is the old Boston & Maine RR. I currently sit on our towns Advisory/Finance Board for West Brookfield, MA.

Presently, we lease railcars in many spaces. Our biggest clients are in the energy sector where we lease unit trains of tank cars. As we all are watching what is going on in this sector with regards to tank car design and safety of these trains. Other railcar leasing includes boxcars, flatcars, covered hoppers and other railcar types. We are expanding our leasing portfolio with a relationship we have with Peoples United Bank.

My recent past also includes the 'idea to implementation' of putting Vertex Railcar Manufacturing together. I was a principle there and have since left that position. We are now raising capital to invest in purchasing shortline railroads. We recently took lease on a rail line here in Massachusetts where we have to put that shortline RR back together. Meaning, put the rails back in and all that is involved with that. It has been a learning process for sure.

The reason I would like to be appointed to the STB Advisory Board is to expand on my knowledge of the rail industry and to expand my knowledge of how the STB works. Having worked in the rail industry for many years, seeing the different regulations and laws passed by the boards, I know how they affect industry. Add to this the current issues with wrecks, the PTC (Positive Train Control) implementation and other issues and I hope to add knowledge and suggestions to the advisory board to aid the STB with their decisions.

I would like to thank you for reading my short representation on myself and I look forward to meeting the members and helping the board if appointed.



Daniel M. Bigda