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October 31, 2019
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GrowthEnergy.org

October 31, 2019

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Notice of Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council Vacancies
EP 526 (Sub-No. 13)

Dear Chairman Begeman:

Growth Energy is the leading biofuel trade association in the country, representing nearly half of American ethanol plants. We represent producers and supporters of ethanol who are working to bring consumers better choices at the fuel pump, grow America's economy, and improve the environment for future generations. Our members operate more than 100 U.S. biorefineries providing homegrown biofuels that cut energy costs and reduce U.S. reliance on foreign oil. In 2018, our industry contributed nearly \$46 billion to America's GDP, purchased over \$23 billion worth of corn from farmers in the U.S., and supported more than 366,000 American jobs.

Growth Energy is proud to support the nomination of Jeff Siebrecht, Senior Rail Distribution Manager of POET Nutrition, LLC, to fill one of the large shipper vacancies on the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council ("RSTAC") in accordance with the October 1, 2019 Notice in Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 13) issued by the Surface Transportation Board ("STB"). Jeff would be an excellent member of RSTAC due to his high level of expertise in all manner of rail matters.

Currently, Jeff manages all aspects of a 2,000+ railcar fleet of dried distiller grains (DDGS) hoppers and vegetable oil tank cars. He also negotiates rates for rail service with Class Is and short-line railroads, and handles the rail analysis of any new business opportunities in the U.S. and Mexico. As a matter of background, POET is one of the world's largest producers of ethanol and other bio-products, headquartered in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Today, POET has a production capacity of 1.8 billion gallons of ethanol and 9 billion pounds of DDGS from 27 plants across the U.S.

Prior to his position at POET, Jeff began his career in the rail industry at Union Pacific Railroad as a manager of yard operations, having responsibility over 140 miles of track, 50+ employees, 15+ customers, and various locations on a single-track territory around Sioux City, Iowa. He then became the manager,

rail fleet, at Terra and CF Industries, overseeing over 3,000 rail cars involved in the haulage of UAN, anhydrous ammonia, ammonium nitrate, and urea liquor. Later, he served as a logistics specialist at Cargill, coordinating rail shipments of soybean oil, meal, biodiesel, and other products from multiple soybean crush facilities.

Jeff's experience on both the rail and rail shipper sides give him a unique and informed perspective on RSTAC issues. He is incredibly knowledgeable on these issues, and always willing to find solutions that work for the entirety of ethanol producers. Jeff is well versed on the concerns of rail shippers, while understanding and appreciating the concerns of all in the rail shipment chain.

Growth Energy believes Mr. Siebrecht's knowledge and experience would be a valuable asset to RSTAC and is pleased to support his nomination to this important advisory committee.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at (202) 545-4023. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Bliley".

Chris Bliley
Vice President of Regulatory Affairs