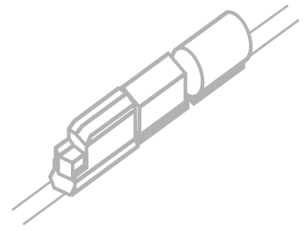




SHARMA & ASSOCIATES, INC.



August 20, 2007

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board (STB)
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: STB Ex Parte No. 670 – Establishment of a Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee

Dear Secretary Williams:

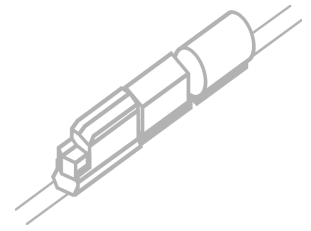
We seek your permission to submit a delayed nomination in response to the July 17, 2007 Ex parte No. 670 notice served by the Surface Transportation Board to establish Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC).

As I understand, the last date for filing the nomination was August 9, 2007. The nominee, Dr. Vinaya Sharma was away for the past few weeks with an overseas business trip and we were unable to discuss his willingness and availability to serve on the RETAC.

I respectfully request you to consider the attached nomination.

Sincerely,

Anand Prabhakaran
VP – Engineering
Sharma & Associates, Inc.



August 20, 2007

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board (STB)
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: STB Ex Parte No. 670 – Establishment of a Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee

Dear Secretary Williams:

In response to the July 17, 2007 Ex parte No. 670 notice served by the STB to establish a Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC), Sharma & Associates (SA), Inc. is pleased to nominate Dr. Vinaya Sharma, President and founder of SA to serve as one of the three members of RETAC with relevant experience but not necessarily affiliated with the operating railroads, coal and energy producers or refining industry.

Dr. Sharma has over 40 years of engineering experience, including 25 in the railroad industry, specializing in research, development and engineering. Prior to founding SA in 1995, Dr. Sharma served for thirteen years in various positions at the Research & Test department of the Association of American Railroads (AAR), including serving as Principal Investigator on key projects. In his tenure at the AAR, Dr. Sharma was instrumental in the technical evaluation of new train technologies to improve productivity of train operations. He managed numerous analytical and field test studies on train operations and vehicle dynamics to investigate train operations and safety.

Over the last 12 years, Dr. Sharma has grown his business to a team of over twelve highly experienced and skilled engineers. SA provides research & engineering consulting services to the transportation industry (primarily railroad), specializing in many areas including crashworthiness, energy evaluations, emissions, operations, and economics. Our clients include the US Government (Federal Railroad Administration, Volpe Center), US & International railroads, car builders, fleet owners, and many other rail industry suppliers.

Dr. Sharma's indepth & varied rail industry experience, combined with an understanding of the key drivers in the industry make him very suitable for a role on RETAC. Dr. Sharma is willing to serve a two-year term as a member of the RETAC.

Please direct any questions concerning this nomination to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Anand Prabhakaran
VP – Engineering
Sharma & Associates, Inc.