

January 16, 2018

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As the leaders of American manufacturing, agriculture and energy industries and some of the nation's largest freight rail customers, we urge you to move forward to nominate new members and a permanent Chair to serve on the Surface Transportation Board (STB). We need a fully-staffed STB committed to moving forward on freight rail policy reforms that will streamline overly burdensome regulatory procedures and promote greater competition in the rail sector.

Our organizations, including trade associations and individual companies, represent a broad cross section of industries that provide more than 7 million direct jobs and support millions more throughout the United States, and generate trillions of dollars in economic output each year. We depend on the railroads to deliver reliable and affordable service in order to remain competitive in a global market.

Competition is the foundation of the free enterprise system and helps American producers grow their businesses, generate new investments and create jobs. However, many freight rail customers have no effective competition for transportation service. The STB plays a critically important role in resolving rail rate and service issues where competition is lacking.

Congress unanimously passed the STB Reauthorization Act of 2015 to help improve how the STB operates, and the Board has initiated a number of steps to modernize overly burdensome procedures. These reforms are aligned with the pro-growth goals of your administration for many important sectors of the U.S. economy; they will help ensure that commodities, including grain, coal, minerals, energy, fertilizer, forest products, steel, and manufactured goods, can be shipped efficiently to both domestic and international markets. Unfortunately, with only two of the five STB positions filled and no permanent Chair, progress on many of these overdue regulatory reforms has stalled.

In order to regain momentum and support U.S. businesses, we must be sure that the STB is fully staffed and comprised of members that will make decisions based on current economic realities and founded on free market solutions. In addition, it is imperative both for railroads and for their customers to have confidence that the STB is a fair and unbiased arbiter of disputes. Therefore, we strongly discourage naming rail industry veterans to the Board, especially as Chair.

We welcome further discussion with you on these important nominations, and look forward to working with your Administration on policies that support growth across the entire U.S. economy.

Sincerely,

Rob Shama
President
Afton Chemical

Mark Kramer
President and CEO
Anderson Development Company

Mitch Bainwol
President & CEO
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers

Brad Westfall
President
ASHTA Chemicals Inc.

Terry Whiteside
Chairman
Alliance for Rail Competition.

Wayne Smith
Chairman and CEO
BASF Corporation

Jim Palmer
President & CEO
Allied Universal Corporation

Jim McGreevy
President and CEO
Beer Institute

Cal Dooley
President and CEO
American Chemistry Council

Mark Nikolich
Chief Executive Officer
Braskem America, Inc.

Zippy Duvall
President
American Farm Bureau Federation

Robert Moser, Jr.
Vice President, Global Accounts
Brenntag North America, Inc.

Donna Harman
President and CEO
American Forest and Paper Association

Sean Keohane
President and CEO
Cabot Corporation

Michael P. Davis
President
American Malting Barley Association

Bob Brown
President and CEO
CALAMCO

Jack Gerard
President and CEO
American Petroleum Institute

Yves Willems
Chief Executive Officer
Carmeuse Lime & Stone

Inga Carus
Chairman
Carus Group Inc.

Roddey Dowd, Jr.
CEO
Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Co.

Mark Vergnano
President and CEO
The Chemours Company

Frank Reiner
President
The Chlorine Institute

Jay Debertin
President and CEO
CHS Inc.

Kirk Milling
President & CEO
Ciner Resources LP

John Bode
President & CEO
Corn Refiners Association

Jerry MacCleary
President
Covestro North America

Herman J. Haksteen
CEO
Cryo-Trans

John D. Williams
President & CEO
Domtar

Marc Nolen
Vice President of Operations
Dover Chemical Corporation

Andrew Liveris
Chairman and CEO
The Dow Chemical Company

Gregg Jones
President & CEO
EP Minerals

John Rolando
President
Evonik Corporation

Chris Jahn
President
The Fertilizer Institute

Edward T. Flynn
EVP & President
Genesis Alkali

Mike Doss
CEO & President
Graphic Packaging International, Inc.

Pamela G. Bailey
President and CEO
Grocery Manufacturers Association

Craig A. Rogerson
Chairman, President and CEO
Hexion Inc.

Amy Hark
Director, Global Logistics Purchasing
Huntsman Corporation

Holly Alfano
CEO
Independent Lubricant Manufacturers
Association

Mark Ellis
President
Industrial Minerals Association – North America

Robin Wiener
President
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries

Mark Sutton
Chairman & CEO
International Paper

Steve DeHaan
President and CEO
International Warehouse Logistics Association

Troy Shannan
SVP of US Operations
KraftHeinz Company

Richard L. Wilkes, Jr.
Senior Vice President – Operations
Kuehne Company

W Paul Delp
President & CEO
Lansdale Warehouse Company

Antonis Papadourakis
President and CEO
LANXESS Corporation

Ron Thompson
CEO
Lhoist North America

Joc O'Rourke
President and CEO
The Mosaic Company

Eric R. Byer
President
National Association of Chemical Distributors

Jennifer Hedrick
Executive Director
National Industrial Transportation League

Mark Ellis
President
National Industrial Sand Association

Francois Fraudeau
President & CEO
Novus International, Inc.

John Fischer
Chairman, President and CEO
Olin Corporation

Joseph Chiaroni
President
ORG Chem Group

Burnis J. Hebert
Interim President
Occidental Chemical Corporation

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Packaging Corporation of America

William R. Carteaux
President & CEO
Plastics Industry Association

Dick Church
Executive Director
Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association

Andrew Reese
President
Plastic Services and Products

Robert W. McBride
President and CEO
The Sulphur Institute

Patrice Legare
Chairman of the Board
Private Railcar Food and Beverage
Association, Inc.

Martin Keighley
CEO & Managing Director
Tata Chemicals North America Inc.

Richard Garneau
President & CEO
Resolute Forest Products

Dick Doyle
President and CEO
Vinyl Institute

Mark Gardner
President & CEO
Sappi North America

Avinash Puri
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Searles Valley Minerals

Alan Minty
VP, Supply Chain – Drilling and Production
Services
SECURE Energy Services

Bruce Culpepper
President
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Michael Lacey
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Solvay America, Inc.

Bryan Smalley
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Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers
Association

Philip K. Bell
President
Steel Manufacturers Association