



June 26, 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 thank you for the nominations of Patrick Fuchs and Michelle Shultz to the Surface Transportation Board (STB). We also urge you to move forward to fill the third vacancy on the Board. A fully staffed STB is critical to both the continued growth of the economy as well as furthering your regulatory reform agenda.

As you know, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation acted swiftly to unanimously approve both of your nominees. Unfortunately, it appears Mr. Fuchs and Ms. Shultz will not be confirmed by the full Senate until a fifth and final STB member is nominated and approved by the Committee. It is our understanding Martin Oberman is being considered for this critical position. Mr. Oberman is a well-respected attorney and a veteran of Chicago's commuter rail system, and we urge you to move forward and nominate him to the STB as soon as possible. It is imperative that we have 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 are members of the Rail Customer Coalition, which represents a broad cross section of industries. Collectively these industries generate trillions of dollars in economic output each year and provide more than 7 million direct jobs that support millions more throughout the United States. We depend on railroads to deliver reliable and affordable service in order to remain competitive in a global market.

Congress unanimously passed the *Surface Transportation Board 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 economy. Adopting these reforms will help ensure that goods manufactured in America and U.S. commodities such as grain, coal, minerals, energy, fertilizer, forest products and steel can be shipped efficiently to both domestic and international markets. Unfortunately, with only two of the five STB positions filled, progress on many of these overdue regulatory reforms has stalled.

Again, we strongly urge you to nominate Mr. Oberman to the STB as soon as possible, and we look forward to working with your Administration and the STB on policies that support growth across the entire U.S. economy.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition
Alliance for Rail Competition
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers
American Bakers Association
American Chemistry Council
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Forest & Paper Association
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers
American Malting Barley Association
Corn Refiners Association
Glass Packaging Institute
Global Automakers
Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association
Industrial Minerals Association – North America
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Louisiana Chemical Association
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Industrial Sand Association
National Industrial Transportation League
National Mining Association
Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association
Plastics Industry Association
Private Railcar Food and Beverage Association
Steel Manufacturers Association
The Chlorine Institute
The Fertilizer Institute
Vinyl Institute