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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

RICHARD M. RUSSELL, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
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The Honorable Ann D. Begeman, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman Begeman,

Thank you for your service as Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board and for your work to promote the efficiency and reliability of freight movement in our nation. Providing a robust and dependable transportation network has been a top priority of mine, as well. I believe that reliable transportation infrastructure is a critical ingredient in creating a nurturing environment for job creation and job preservation. As the senior Senator from Delaware, and the senior Democrat on the Environment and Public Works Committee, I look for opportunities to promote policies that enhance our nation's infrastructure and economic competitiveness.

My state has numerous businesses in the chemical, agricultural, and food products sector that rely on rail infrastructure to ship freight. Rail carriers rely on the business they receive from these shippers. I believe there are few people who could understand this symbiotic relationship between shippers and carriers as well as Dwight Price, a Delawarean who has held positions in both the railroad industry, as well as in the shipping sectors of Agriculture, Food and Consumer, Minerals, and Chemicals. Dwight began his career in the grain shipping business, after which he moved to CSX, then onto refrigerated food shipping. He currently works for DuPont as its Manager of Rail Logistics. Dwight is now a candidate for one of the vacant large-shipper positions on the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC), and I hope you will agree that his nearly forty-year career across the rail industry makes him an ideal candidate for this vacancy.

As you know, the goal of the RSTAC is to bring together representatives of various segments of the railroad and rail shipper industries in a forum through which they may identify shared challenges and practicable solutions. With a limited number of seats on the Council, the Administration should seek to appoint members that can contribute the broadest and most valuable perspective. In Dwight, due to the depth and breadth of his rail industry knowledge and experience, the Council would gain a member who would—almost immediately—be able to understand and provide insightful perspectives on many of the issues that will come before the RSTAC. As a significant participant in the commercial sales and marketing side of the railroad industry, he understands the railroads' commercial and pricing practices and philosophy. As a former railcar lessor, he understands the issues that rail equipment suppliers face. Through his current position with a major rail shipper, he understands the challenges and issues that rail shippers face, especially in the highly-regulated chemical industry.

Beyond his background and knowledge, I believe that Dwight would be a valuable asset to the RSTAC. Due to the collaborative and empathetic approach that he brings to his current position, he works to develop and maintain relationships with DuPont's rail carriers, with the goal of engaging them to arrive at mutually beneficial solutions to common problems.

I believe Dwight would bring this same mindset and approach to a position on the RSTAC. I'm sure you have received many well-qualified candidates, but I doubt that many of them match the diversity and depth of experience that Dwight's background provides, across multiple and diverse industries, geographical areas, and with very different types of railcars and commodities.

In short, Dwight would be an excellent addition to the RSTAC, and I thank you for considering his candidacy.

With best personal regards, I am,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Carper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Tom Carper
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment
and Public Works