



Robert R. Barkerding, Jr., Chairman
Board of Commissioners
Port of New Orleans

June 28, 2017

243868

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

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June 28, 2017
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Dear Chairwoman Begeman:

Docket No. EP 526 (Sub No. 9)

As Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans, I submit the nomination of Ms. Brandy D. Christian to serve on the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council for the at-large (public interest) representative.

Ms. Christian serves as the President and CEO of the Port of New Orleans, a public agency that manages more than \$60 million in revenues, nearly 300 employees and more than \$200 million in capital projects. Christian is one of 11 female port directors in North America and the first in the Port of New Orleans' 120-year history.

Ms. Christian recently led the negotiations with the City of New Orleans for the Port to acquire the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad (NOPB). A Class III switching railroad, the NOPB serves one of the nation's largest rail gateways, connecting six Class I railroads to the seaport and Mississippi River crossing. It is the fourth-largest gateway by car volume.

Ms. Christian has a global perspective and emphasizes strategic focus, collaborative partnerships and executing bold action plans.

Prior to joining the Port, she served 14 years with the Port of San Diego, California's fourth-largest cargo port and one of California's largest public land developers with a portfolio encompassing the maritime industry, hospitality and tourism. Serving as vice president of strategy and business development, Christian was the driving force behind streamlining the public agency's operational processes, reducing costs, securing major accounts, and negotiating leases for the cruise and cargo business lines.

Before joining the Port of San Diego, Christian worked for KPMG Consulting as a quality management consultant in their public sector practice. She earned a bachelor's degree in political



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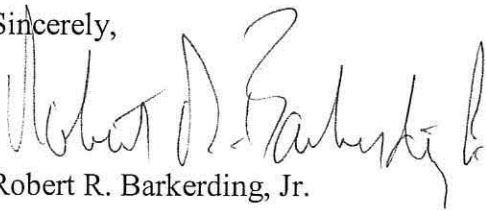
science from the University of Arizona and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California. Christian is a Certified Port Executive, Certified Six Sigma Green Belt, Board of Examiners - Malcolm Baldrige, and the recipient of the Examiner of the Year by the California Award for Performance Excellence.

Christian serves on the Green Marine Board of Directors, as Cruise Committee Chair for the American Association of Port Authorities, and on the University of New Orleans Transportation Institute (UNOTI) Advisory Board. Christian was named an Alumna of the Year (2015) by the University of Arizona and 2016 Top Female Achiever by New Orleans Magazine.

I believe Ms. Christian's experience in global trade, planning and industrial development qualifies her to provide critical information and input to the Surface Transportation Board and Congress on policy issues facing the rail and shipping industry.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Barkerding, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Robert R. Barkerding, Jr.

LOUISIANA RAILROADS ASSOCIATION

CARMACK M. BLACKMON

General Counsel & Legislative Representative
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Email: larailrd@bellsouth.net

June 28, 2017

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

ATTN: Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 9)
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Support letter for nomination of Ms. Brandy Christian to the
Railroad – Shippers Transportation Advisory
Council (RSTAC) at-large (public interest)
Representative vacancy –

TO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

As General Counsel, Legislative Representative and Executive Director of the Louisiana Railroads Association, whose membership consists of the six (6) Class I Railroads and seven (7) of the Class II and Class III Railroads operating in the State of Louisiana, I am writing to support the nomination of Ms. Brandy Christian, President and CEO of the Port of New Orleans to serve on the Railroad – Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC) for an at-large (public interest) representative.

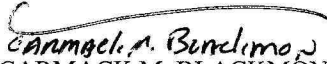
I have headed the Louisiana Railroads Association for over thirty-five (35) years and have found Ms. Christian's experience and background to be extensive as respects planning and industrial development of transportation related activities. She also has great understanding of global trade. As President and CEO of the Port of New Orleans she has been involved with the six (6) Class I Railroads utilizing the New Orleans Gateway and supportive of all measures undertaken to improve this important Gateway.

She has just finished negotiations with the City of New Orleans for the Port of New Orleans to take over the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad and did an excellent job in understanding the interaction of the Belt and the Class I's as well as the Port and all local shippers.

I believe Ms. Christian would be an excellent choice to fill the vacancy as the at-large (public interest) representative on the RSTAC. Her credentials and work ethics indicate she will definitely be an asset to the RSTAC.

With kindest personal regards, I remain,

Cordially yours,


CARMACK M. BLACKMON

cc: Ms. Brandy Christian

Elizabeth Bordelon

From: Brandy Christian
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 12:31 PM
To: Elizabeth Bordelon
Cc: Matt Gresham
Subject: RE: Nomination for Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council Vacancy

Elizabeth,

Yes, I would be honored to accept the nomination.

Thanks very much,
Brandy

From: Elizabeth Bordelon
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 12:28 PM
To: Brandy Christian <ChristianB@portno.com>
Cc: Matt Gresham <GreshamM@portno.com>
Subject: Nomination for Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council Vacancy

Good afternoon, Ms. Christian.

Attached please find a letter of nomination from the Port of New Orleans Board of Commissioners for the "at-large representative" vacancy on the Surface Transportation Board's Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council. A letter of support for this nomination from the Louisiana Railroads Association is also attached to this email. Please confirm that you are willing to accept this nomination and serve as a member of RSTAC effective immediately if you are selected for appointment by the STB.

Very Respectfully,

Elizabeth



Elizabeth H. Bordelon | Executive Assistant
Office of President & Chief Executive Officer
Port of New Orleans | bordelone@portno.com
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