

ADVANTAGE INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORS

Jolene M. Molitoris
Strategic Partner

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February 12, 2021

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
February 12, 2021
Part of
Public Record

RE: Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 14)
Notice of Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council Vacancies

Dear Chairman Oberman and Members of the Board,

It is my privilege to support the application of Donald M. Itzkoff, Chief Policy Officer, Patriot Rail Company LLC, to represent small railroads on the Surface Transportation Board's Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council. I have worked and teamed with Don since the late 1980s, and I encourage his appointment.

During my tenure as Federal Railroad Administrator from 1993-2001, Don served with me at FRA as Deputy Administrator. I sought Don out from his role as senior counsel with the Senate Commerce Committee because I wanted an agency partner with outstanding intellect, transportation policy command, and a team-building way with people. Don accomplished much at FRA, but perhaps most notable in this context was his initiative under my direction and with the full support of Transportation Secretary Federico Peña in establishing the Federal Railroad Safety Advisory Committee. Don was instrumental in bringing rail management, labor and other parties together to create the foundation for the Clinton administration's approval of the RSAC – with complete buy-in from the regulated community – launching the successful collaborative safety negotiated rulemaking process that still operates today.

Early in my career, I ran the rail division of the Ohio Department of Transportation, where we supported the creation of many short line railroads. From this time at ODOT, my work at FRA, my later appointment under Governor Ted Strickland as Director of ODOT, and my private sector experience, I know the short line industry. I also have met many leaders in transportation, and Don stands tall among them. If he is selected Don will bring an unusually informed understanding of the rail industry to the RSTAC, and would be an outstanding representative for the interests of short lines.

Don Itzkoff will elevate the RSTAC's critical support of the Board's work. He has my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,



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