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Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001
REF: Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No. 1)

Docket Clerk:

The Commuter Rail Coalition submits for consideration the following candidate for the STB's Passenger Rail Advisory Committee.

James M. Derwinski
CEO/Executive Director
Metra
547 W. Jackson
Chicago, IL 60661
312-656-0300
jderwinski@metrarr.com

The Chief Executive of Metra, Jim Derwinski is being nominated to represent commuter rail operators. Since 2017 Mr. Derwinski has overseen one of the nation's largest, busiest and most complex commuter rail systems in the nation, serving a six-county region of more than 3,700 square miles.

Metra's operations rely on facilities owned by Amtrak, as well as those owned or utilized by rail freight operators in the Chicago region. Further, under Mr. Derwinski's leadership, Metra is on track to expand into intercity passenger rail service in 2027.

In greater Chicago the tightly choreographed movements of more than 1,300 commuter, freight and Amtrak trains each day depend on constant communication between rail carriers. Approximately 65% of freight trains operating in the region interact with Metra in some way, either by crossing tracks used by Metra trains or sharing track with commuter service. No other commuter railroad in North America has such a complex interface with other railroads.

Further demonstrating the synergy of relationships necessary to move Chicago, since 2003 Metra, freight railroads, Amtrak, and the Illinois DOT have together delivered projects designed to reduce and remove passenger and freight congestion in the Chicago area under the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program.

And, under Derwinski's leadership, Metra has been selected by Illinois Governor JB Pritzker to operate intercity passenger rail between Rockford and Chicago, IL.

A longtime champion of public transportation, Mr. Derwinski is a founder and served as the first chairman of the Commuter Rail Coalition (CRC). The CRC is an association of commuter rail agencies, operators and other interested parties acting together to educate and engage stakeholders on the importance and value that commuter railroads bring to the nation as a whole and the communities they serve.

Throughout the CRC's crucial first years, Mr. Derwinski steered the direction of the association, invested in the association's growth and impact, and represented the CRC on Capitol Hill, before House and Senate Committees, and in the media.

In the five years since its founding in 2019, the Commuter Rail Coalition has grown to represent the agencies that move more than 98 percent of all commuter rail ridership.

Mr. Derwinski currently serves as chairman of the Illinois High Speed Rail Commission. He also serves on the American Public Transportation Association Board of Directors, including on several key committees; the Safety Operations and Management Committee of the Association of American Railroads; and the Transportation Technology Center Board of Directors.

And, he is leading Metra in restoring commuter confidence in public transportation in a post-COVID environment. Looking to the future, Mr. Derwinski is overseeing new transportation initiatives, including updating Metra's aging fleet of railcars and locomotives, and making service more affordable and available to underserved communities.

Mr. Derwinski has agreed to this nomination and to CRC's support of his candidacy for the STB's PRAC, and if selected, agrees to serve in a representative capacity throughout his tenure on the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KellyAnne Gallagher", with a stylized, flowing script.

KellyAnne Gallagher
Chief Executive Officer