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A bold voice for transportation workers

August 14, 2023

Scott Zimmerman
Acting Director
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board

RE: Notice of Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council Vacancies Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 18)

Mr. Zimmerman,

I write in response to the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) request for nominations to serve on the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC). The Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD) formally endorses the individuals listed below who have been nominated by their respective unions to serve on the Committee.

TTD consists of 37 affiliate unions representing workers in all modes of transportation, including the totality of rail labor. TTD and our affiliates strongly support efforts to encourage industry cooperation and promote safe and timely delivery of critical supplies that are necessary to our economy.

RSTAC brings together experts from shipping and rail industry stakeholders to provide independent policy advice to the Board and regarding small shippers and small railroads, including car supply, rates, competition, and procedures for addressing claims. TTD is a strong advocate for including labor representatives in critical safety and operations conversations. TTD respectfully urges STB to give due consideration to the individuals identified below.

Jeremy Ferguson, nominated by the Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART-TD)

Mr. Ferguson serves as SMART-TD's President. He began his career as a conductor with CSX in 1994 before being promoted to a railroad engineer in 1995. In the years following, Mr. Ferguson was elected by his peers to various leadership positions with his local chapter. He was elected Second Vice General Chairperson of SMART-TD in 2008 and First Vice General Chairperson in 2011. He was subsequently elected to the position of Vice President in 2014 and finally was elected

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to serve as the President of SMART-TD in 2019. Mr. Ferguson was engaged on quality labor-management committees in his various union roles where he collaborated with management and shippers. While serving as president of SMART-TD, Mr. Ferguson has taken an active role to ensure that rail shippers and the public are fully aware of the many challenges facing the railroad industry, including safety. Mr. Ferguson's nearly three decades in the rail industry along with his demonstrated history of collaboration and problem solving would make him an asset to this Council.

Mark Wallace, nominated by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET)

Mr. Wallace serves as First Vice President and Alternate National President of the 51,500-member Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET), a Division of the Rail Conference, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, a position he has held since 2022. He previously served as National Vice President of BLET, a role to which he was elected in 2018. At the time of his election in 2018, Vice President Wallace was serving as a National Division Trustee and as General Chairman of the Norfolk Southern-Southern Lines General Committee of Adjustment (GCA), which at the time represented 43 Divisions with over 3,000 members. Mr. Wallace began his railroad career as a carman with Norfolk Southern in 1993 and transferred to the craft of conductor in 1996. In 1998, he completed his locomotive engineer training and attained seniority as a locomotive engineer. He has been elected to a number of leadership positions within his Local Division and BLET's Executive Committee over the course of his career. Mr. Wallace's extensive experience in the railroad industry would undoubtedly benefit this Council.

Conclusion

These candidates are committed to ensuring safety in our rail system and their combined experience and labor perspective continue to be invaluable to RSTAC as it develops its recommendations. TTD appreciates the opportunity to endorse these candidates and hopes that STB will consider our recommendations to provide the Committee with the views of frontline workers who serve as irreplaceable stewards in maintaining the safe, effective, and efficient operation of our rail system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Regan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Greg Regan
President