



A bold voice for transportation workers

March 6, 2023

Mai T. Dinh
Director
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board

**RE: Notice of Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council Vacancies
Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 16)**

Dear Ms. Dinh,

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.

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

Mr. Cassity serves as SMART-TD's Alternate National Legislative Director with chief responsibility for safety issues. He began as a railroad engineer with CSX before being elected by his peers to various leadership positions with his local chapter. In addition to his elected roles, he has been a member of the National Safety Team (NST) since 2014, where he was subsequently selected to the position of Alternate Director (East) for the NST in 2016. In this capacity, he has assisted NTSB with more than a dozen major rail accidents. Likewise, he was elected by his fellow

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peers of state directors to serve as the directors' representative on the CSX Safety Model Executive Board in 2013. Mr. Cassity also has intermodal experience, having worked in aviation for nearly ten years, where he was responsible for the safety of workers and aircraft. His breadth of operational and safety experience would be a significant asset for RSTAC.

Brandon Denucci, nominated by the American Train Dispatchers Association (ATDA)

Mr. Denucci is a National Vice President for the American Train Dispatchers Association and is currently on a leave of absence from Norfolk Southern. During his 15 years with Norfolk Southern, he worked as both a Train Dispatcher and Assistant Chief Dispatcher. Prior to working as a train dispatcher, he worked as an air traffic controller and therefore has a unique intermodal perspective. Mr. Denucci holds an Associate of Science Degree in Air Traffic Control and has studied Logistics as well as Labor and Employment Relations at Penn State University.

Christopher "Chris" Hand, nominated by the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen (BRS)

In 2000, Mr. Hand attended Arapahoe Community College in Littleton, Colorado to seek a General Studies Degree; however, he decided to change course and entered the Fire Science Technology Program at nearby Red Rocks Community College in 2001. More recently, Mr. Hand continued his education at Eastern Gateway Community College to obtain a Paralegal Certification. In 2008, he began his railroad career with Union Pacific Railroad. His fifteen years of railroad experience includes leadership roles in the signal craft as a Foreman and an Electronic Technician. Currently, he serves as the Director of Research with the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen. His responsibilities encompass regulatory affairs, research, and analysis pertaining to issues related to the membership.

Roy Morrison, nominated by the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division (BMWED)

Mr. Morrison worked for Union Pacific Railroad (UP) from 1996 to 2015, where he worked as a Track Laborer, Equipment Operator, Track Foreman, and Track Inspector. He worked across most of UP's Northern System. He spent 11 years traveling on system production gangs (SPG) and eight years working locally out of Spokane, Washington. As the BMWED's National Director of Safety, Mr. Morrison earned his National Safety Council Advanced Safety Certificate. He is responsible for preparing safety testimony and presentations at hearings and inquisitions and before policy and lawmaking bodies, including the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC), Surface Transportation Security Advisory Committee (STSAC), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), and Congress. The BMWED Department of Safety is also responsible for researching and filing comments to the Federal Docket on Notices of Proposed Rulemakings (NPRM) and railroad requests for waivers from federal safety laws and regulations.

Al Russo, nominated by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)

Mr. Russo began his career as a railroad electrician with Amtrak after graduating as an Electronic Technician from the Connecticut School of Electronics near his hometown of New Haven, CT. He joined the IBEW in 1980, when he accepted a position with Amtrak as an electrician working in

the mechanical department. In 1999 he was hired by Metro North Commuter Railroad and went on to earn an Associate of Science Degree in Business Management in 2004 from Albertus Magnus College. In 2013, Mr. Russo was appointed by IBEW's then-International President Edwin Hill to serve as an International Representative in Washington, D.C., and on May 1, 2020, President Stephenson appointed Mr. Russo as the Director of the Railroad Department where he continues to fight on behalf of the union's entire railroad branch as it faces numerous challenges — including the unfortunate ongoing layoffs stemming from the Class I Railroads' embrace of Precision Scheduled Railroading.

Sean Simon, nominated by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET)

As the Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, Mr. Simon promotes legislative and regulatory efforts that are beneficial to BLET members, and collaborates with other organizations to earn the backing of government officials and the public. Mr. Simon hired out with Conrail in March of 1994. He earned a promotion to locomotive engineer in August of 1995 and joined the Brotherhood effective October 1, 1997. In 2021, Mr. Simon was reelected by acclamation to his fifth term as Local Chairman of Division 226 in Newark, New Jersey. He also serves Division 226 as the Alternate Legislative Representative.

Mr. Simon briefly served as President of Division 601 after joining the Brotherhood. After Norfolk Southern (NS) and CSX took over Conrail, he transitioned to a position at NS. Shortly after Conrail dissolved, Mr. Simon joined the reactivated BLET Division 226 and was elected to serve as its Legislative Representative. He has also held the offices of Local Chairman and Alternate Legislative Representative of Division 226. He was elected 2nd Vice Chairman of the New Jersey State Legislative Board in 2010, and 1st Vice Chairman in 2013. He was elevated to the office of Chairman in 2014. He was elected by acclamation to continue serving as Chairman of the New Jersey State Legislative Board in 2016, and then re-elected by acclamation in 2020. He studied Communications at Mercer County Community College, in West Windsor, New Jersey.

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