

6429 Hollins Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817

301623

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,

I am pleased to endorse the application of Donald M. Itzkoff, Chief Policy Officer, Patriot Rail Company LLC, to be a small railroad representative on the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council ("RSTAC"). Mr. Itzkoff's deep public and private sector experience in rail policy over the past three decades would enable him to be an exceptionally valuable contributor to the RSTAC, and I urge your consideration of his appointment.

During my service as Board Vice Chairman from 2004-2013, my Board colleagues and I benefitted greatly from the RSTAC's private sector input. From my prior work with the U.S. Government Accountability Office, with USDOT as Deputy Assistant Inspector General, and with the staff of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I know well that hearing from diverse perspectives is essential for informed decision-making.

For this reason Mr. Itzkoff would be an excellent addition to the RSTAC. Mr. Itzkoff has served as Deputy Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, senior counsel with the staff of the Senate Commerce Committee, and in the private sector has represented freight and passenger railroads, railroad suppliers, public agencies, and other transportation clients. His ability across his distinguished career to understand and assimilate divergent stakeholder positions would make his representation of small railroads on the RSTAC especially effective for the Board.

I began working with Mr. Itzkoff in 1991 when I was with the GAO and he served on the Senate Commerce Committee staff. We have partnered – and negotiated – on many rail and transportation policy issues since, and I have always found his intellectual leadership, substantive contribution, and commitment to finding positive solutions compelling. The Board would benefit greatly from Mr. Itzkoff's appointment to the RSTAC, and I am privileged strongly to support his candidacy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/

Francis P. Mulvey, PhD