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

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

Dear Chairman Oberman,

I am writing this letter in support of Mr. Don Itzkoff, Chief Policy Officer with Patriot Rail Company LLC, for one of the two vacancies for small railroad representative on the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council ("RSTAC"). I was first introduced to Mr. Itzkoff nearly 30 years ago in 1993. Mr. Itzkoff was the senior counsel of the Surface Transportation Subcommittee for the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. I served alongside him as staff counsel. I saw first-hand his policy intellect and expertise, commitment to achieving productive outcomes, and his collegial and personable working style.

After Mr. Itzkoff left the Committee the following year to be confirmed as the Deputy Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, he and I continued to compare notes and discuss policy issues within the jurisdiction of the Surface Transportation Subcommittee. These conversations included discussions of the early iterations of the Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act (ICCTA) of 1995 which ultimately authorized the RSTAC. We have collaborated on a broad array of rail and transportation policy issues since and I still value his policy assessments.

During my service as the fourth Member of the Surface Transportation Board and as Vice Chairman, I would participate in RSTAC meetings. I fully appreciate the value of the RSTAC with its focus on matters impacting large and small shippers, and large and small railroads. I know the important role the RSTAC plays in advising the Board, the Secretary of Transportation and congressional committees on relevant rail matters. I am confident that based on Mr. Itzkoff's prior service with the Executive branch and with Congress, and in the private sector on behalf of freight and passenger railroads, suppliers, public authorities and other stakeholders, he would advance the important mission of the RSTAC if selected.

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Mr. Itzkoff has focused on rail transportation issues as long as I have known him in both the public and private sector. In those nearly three decades, he has immersed himself not only in the legislative and regulatory framework of rail public policy, but has been attentive to how stakeholders are impacted by the implementation of that policy. He would be an outstanding member of the RSTAC, bringing his institutional knowledge, an understanding of current issues, and a desire for meaningful collaboration.

I do not write this letter lightly. This is not to satisfy some political debt or to fulfill a personal obligation. I write this letter because Don Itzkoff is thorough with his work, vigilant with his work ethic, and genuine with his public service. If he is selected, he would serve the RSTAC, the Board, and the public well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Clyburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

William Clyburn, Jr.