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January 23, 2018
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Robert B. Ledoux, Esq.
Senior Vice President,
General Counsel & Corporate Secretary

January 22, 2018

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman
Acting Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

The Honorable Deb Miller
Vice Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Attn: Docket No. EP 526
Re: Notice of Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council Vacancy

Dear Acting Chairman Begeman and Vice Chairman Miller:

As SVP of Florida East Coast Railway, LLC, a Class II freight railroad, I submit the nomination of Mr. Nate Asplund to serve on the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC) as a small railroad representative.

Nate currently serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of our Jacksonville, Florida based company. Nate is a career railroad professional with over 25 years of multi-disciplinary experience. Since 2015, Nate served as President and CEO of the Red River Valley and Western Railroad (RRVW), a 500+ mile regional railroad serving North Dakota and Minnesota. Under Nate's leadership, the RRVW team achieved record volume for rail transportation and car repair, sited three additional grain shuttle facilities, built a wind project distribution terminal, and attracted customer investments approaching \$90 million. RRVW now originates more grain shuttle unit trains than any non-class I railroad in North America.

Between 2010 and 2015, Nate served as Assistant Vice President, Mexico for BNSF Railway. In this role, he served as the General Manager of BNSF's Mexico subsidiary and led a U.S. and Mexico-based team focused on rail and intermodal transportation via five international gateways accessed by BNSF and its partner railroads in Mexico. Nate joined BNSF Railway in 2007 to head its Public-Private Partnership team and successfully pioneered partnerships with the public sector to remedy rail infrastructure choke points in several Midwest and Western states. Between 1994 and 2007, Nate served with Crowley Maritime Corporation in a variety of functions where he developed marine transportation and logistics projects in the US, South America, Central America, the Caribbean, Russia, and Africa. Between 1988 and 1994, Nate worked with Burlington Northern Railroad, a BNSF predecessor, focusing on agricultural export traffic to the Pacific Rim and Mexico.

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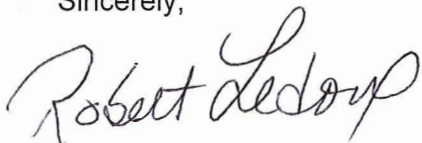
Nate's strong background in Class I, Class II, Class III and as a rail shipper at Crowley will provide excellent experience to the Council. As you are aware he previously served on the RSTAC as Secretary and would be honored if he was selected for another term to continue the great work he started on the RSTAC.

In his current assignment, Nate is charged with overseeing and directing all FEC operations and works closely with State and Federal agencies. He is a Board member of the American Association of Railroads and a past Chair of the American Shortline Association Legislative Policy Committee PAC. Nate's track record has resulted in positive rail customer relations and partnerships that enable customers and railroads to work cooperatively in pursuit of infrastructure grant and loan opportunities that are mutually beneficial.

FEC is willing to make Nate available and he is willing to serve immediately upon appointment. Nate is regularly in Washington, DC and based in Jacksonville, Florida it will be convenient to attend meetings in Washington, DC. Given his background and experience, I know he will be able to effectively represent the perspective of our small railroad companies.

I believe that Nate's experience as a small railroader for two different small railroads, a Class I railroader, and rail customer at Crowley focused on the needs and challenges facing railroad customers, will provide valuable input on railroad-transportation policy issues. I urge your consideration of this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Robert Ledoux". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Ledoux" clearly legible.

Robert Ledoux

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