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January 22, 2018

Honorable Ann D. Begeman - Acting Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 10)
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**Re: Whirlpool Corporation Response to Surface Transportation Board Decision Document,
"Notice of Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council and Solicitation of Nominations"
(December 28, 2017, 82 FR 61653)**

Dear Chairman Begeman,

Whirlpool Corporation is pleased to nominate Mr. James L Thompson II - Senior Manager North America Logistics for consideration to serve as a large shipper board member on the Railroad - Shipper Transportation Advisory Committee. Mr. Thompson brings 22 years of supply chain industry leadership experience with Whirlpool Corporation and Ford Motor Company. He holds a bachelor degree in Integrated Supply Chain Management from Western Michigan University, Master Business Administration from Wayne State University, and Supply Chain Executive certificate from Michigan State University.

Whirlpool Corporation is the number one major appliance manufacturer in the world, with approximately \$21 billion in annual sales, 93,000 employees and 70 manufacturing and technology research centers around the world. The company was founded in the United States more than 105 years ago and maintains offices, manufacturing and distribution facilities in fourteen states: California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Washington. Additionally, when counting our sales teams, we have employees located in every state in the United States.

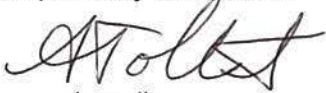
At Whirlpool, James is responsible for managing a \$450M transportation network which includes all modes of transportation. During his tenure with Whirlpool he has effectively partnered with both over the road trucking (FTL, LTL, Parcel) and railroad (carload and intermodal) service providers to improve overall network velocity, transportation efficiencies, service levels and environmental sustainability initiatives. Under Mr. Thompson's leadership, Whirlpool Transportation has been recognized three consecutive years (2014-2016) by the US

Environmental Protection Agency with their Smartway Excellence Award and more recently recognized as a "High Performer" shipper by the EPA. Mr Thompson has successfully increased Whirlpool's inter-modal and carload rail shipments by more than 30% over the last four years. Currently 70% of Whirlpool's Regional Distribution Centers and 50% of our Manufacturing facilities in North America have direct rail access and 100% of Whirlpool North America locations are supported with intermodal rail service. Whirlpool is a industry leader with over 90% of all long haul (>1,000 miles) shipments moving on Class I railroads.

Whirlpool has strong working relationships with all class I railroads in the United States, Canada, and Mexico and over 200 contracted over the road service providers. As a industry leader and subject matter expert, James has participated in multiple customer advisory councils, Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals, and the Transportation Research Board. During his eleven years with Ford Motor Company he supported various roles of increasing responsibility in Purchasing, Material, Planning & Logistics.

With Mr. Thompson's vast Transportation and Supply Chain experience we are confident he is well suited to represent the large shipper community across multiple industry sectors and would be a valuable asset to both the RSTAC and trusted advisor to the Surface Transportation Board. Whirlpool will cover all necessary travel expense to support committee meetings and any associated support should James be selected.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Tolhurst', with a stylized, cursive script.

Amanda Tolhurst
Director - U.S. Logistics Operations
Whirlpool Corporation