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The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chair
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 2423

RE: Ex Parte No. EP 526 (Sub.-No. 15) – Small Shipper – Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Committee Opening

Dear Chairman Oberman:

I am writing on behalf of the National Industrial Transportation League ([NITL](#)) in nominating and expressing support for Ross Corthell, Vice President of Transportation for the Packaging Corporation of America to serve as a member of the of the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Committee (RSTAC), notably for the small shipper opening, as announced in the October 31, 2022 issue of the Federal Register.

As you are aware, since 1907, NIT League has been a trade association representing “The Voice of the Shipper” across truck, carload, rail, intermodal, ocean, and barge. NIT League members represent a broad swath of commodities and businesses, most which are very dependent on a healthy, viable and reliable freight rail network. From consumer goods manufacturers a, processors, and transporters, ranging from agriculture, aggregates, chemicals, steel, forest and paper, fuels, and foods products NIT League members spend billions in freight dollars annually and employ millions of people.

Mr. Corthell has the ideal qualifications to serve on the RSTAC. He has been in the supply chain business since 1992, and now serves as the Vice President of Transportation for the Packaging Corporation of America ([PCA](#)). PCA is the third-largest producer of containerboard in the United States and the third-largest producer of uncoated freesheet in North America, PCA has approximately 15,200 employees, with operations primarily in the United States. In his PCA role, Mr. Corthell is constantly working with the Class I carriers and the short lines.

To hold a seat on the RSTAC commands profound respect and honor within the NITL membership, as our past Chair, Bruce Ridley, previously served on this Committee. Mr. Corthell has served as the Chair of the NITL Rail Transportation Committee since 2018 and has just recently begun serving as First Chair of NITL’s Executive Committee.

Most recently in his NITL leadership roles, Mr. Corthell initiated a NITL member survey regarding railroad First-Mile Last-Mile data. The information generated from this exercise continues to be used to help explain to key policy decision makers – including you and your colleagues serving on the Surface

Transportation Board (STB or Board) and STB staff – the importance of how this data illustrates poor railroad service performance from shipper experiences.

Mr. Corthell is familiar with the Surface Transportation Board where he testified before you and your colleagues in the EP 770 (Sub-No. 1), *Urgent Issues in Freight Rail Service—Railroad Reporting* hearing held just several months ago. Mr. Corthell is constantly working with fellow NITL leaders in helping to develop NITL's comments in response to not just proceedings before the Board, but also pending proposals before other Federal agencies with similar goals such as the Federal Maritime Commission.

In addition to the STB, Mr. Corthell is quite familiar with the workings of Capitol Hill and has participated both formally and informally by serving as a witness presenting testimony during congressional hearings and by contributing to industry congressional roundtable discussions on freight rail shipper issues.

If I can offer further insights into Mr. Corthell's qualifications to serve on RSTAC, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 443-975-5556 or Nancy.oliddy@nitl.org. Mr. Chairman, thank you for your consideration of Mr. Corthell to serve as a member of the RSTAC, representing the small shipper voice. His passion for the freight rail industry is evident every day, and he is steadfast in working with others to find positive solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. Nancy O'Liddy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

E. Nancy O'Liddy
Executive Director