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United States Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 10)
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Acting Chairman Begeman and Commissioner Miller:

It is my honor to recommend the nomination of Mathew Brainerd to be a member on the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC). Due to his distinguished experience in the chemical industry, Mr. Brainerd is well-deserving of this nomination.

Mr. Brainerd is the current Chairman and Owner of Brainerd Chemical Company and lives in Tulsa, where the company is headquartered. He took over the family company in 1979 and has since proven his ability to run a successful operation, taking it from a small business to a nationwide distributing company that also reaches outside the United States.

In addition to his impressive leadership at Brainerd Chemical, he is also the immediate Past-Chairman of the National Association of Chemical Distributors (NACD). Mr. Brainerd has served in a number of roles at NACD including the Chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee, Treasurer, and Vice Chairman; as well as fulfilling the role of Treasurer at the Chemical Education Foundation for a time. While participating in those leadership roles, he focused his efforts on safety promotion and environmental protection.

Brainerd Chemical operates three rail terminals with throughput of 1,000 rail cars per year. The company almost exclusively handles hazardous material, which is why Mr. Brainerd has worked tirelessly to encourage safe chemical transportation. He also has personal experience working with Class I and Class II railroads.

Because of his extensive knowledge of the chemical industry and experience of running a successful chemical distribution business, it is easy to see how Mr. Brainerd would be a logical, necessary addition to the committee.

I ask that you consider the nomination of Mathew Brainerd to RSTAC as he is ready and willing to serve on the committee immediately upon appointment.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James M. Inhofe", with a stylized, cursive script.

James M. Inhofe
United States Senator