



INTERNATIONAL
DAIRY DELI BAKERY
ASSOCIATION

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January 9, 2017

The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott III
Chair
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
January 18, 2017
Part of
Public Record

2017 JAN 18 PM 9:27
OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN

Re: Docket No. EP 526 (Sub-No. 8), Notice of Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council

Dear Chairman Elliott:

I am writing on behalf of the International Deli Dairy Bakery Association (IDDBA) in support of Mr. Kevin Murray's nomination to serve as the small shipper representative on the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council.

Since 1964, the IDDBA has represented the needs of the food industry as a leading nonprofit trade association. From a food perspective, the logistics of getting product from point A to point B represents a substantial portion of costs. Additionally, logistical concerns regarding the preservation of food quality (e.g. refrigeration, expiry dates) places further stress on the proficiency with which goods are transported. It is with this acknowledged stake in the continued upkeep of national transportation that the IDDBA offers its support for Mr. Murray's involvement with the aforementioned Council.

Mr. Murray currently serves as Vice President of Supply Chain for RED GOLD in Elwood, Indiana, one of over 1,500 companies involved in our organization. RED GOLD represents a fourth-generation, family-owned business, the embodiment of American manufacturing at its best. In the past 20 years, RED GOLD has grown from a regional supplier of only a few tomato products to a nationwide supplier of over 40 premium quality tomato products in all 50 states and 16 countries.

Mr. Murray skillfully leads RED GOLD's transportation logistics, which includes rail, intermodal, and truck. His hard work and dedication have given RED GOLD a versatile and efficient supply chain. At IDDBA, this type of talent is highly regarded as an indispensable component of our operation.

With his leadership skills and expertise on rail transportation and logistics, Mr. Murray would be a valuable addition to the Council as it continues its indispensable work.

Sincerely,

John Cheesman
Past Chairman, IDDBA Board of Directors