



October 17, 2018

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As the leaders of American manufacturing, agriculture and energy industries and some of the nation's largest freight rail customers, we thank you for the nominations of Patrick Fuchs, Michelle Shultz, and Martin Oberman to the Surface Transportation Board (STB).

We are writing to encourage you to re-nominate, as soon as possible, current STB Vice-Chair Deb Miller to serve a second term on the board. As we have previously communicated to you, a fully staffed STB is critical to both the continued growth of the economy as well as furthering your regulatory reform agenda.

Our organizations are members of the Rail Customer Coalition, which represents a broad cross section of industries. Collectively these industries generate trillions of dollars in economic output each year and provide more than 7 million direct jobs that support millions more throughout the United States. We depend on railroads to deliver reliable and affordable service in order to remain competitive in a global market.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation has acted swiftly to unanimously approve all three of your STB nominees and we are hopeful the full Senate will follow suit.

Vice-Chair Miller has served the STB admirably during her first term and has brought thoughtful, commonsense leadership to the Board as they consider a wide variety of pro-growth reform measures. She has worked tirelessly to modernize freight rail policy and streamline overly burdensome regulatory procedures.

Freight rail customers have been patiently waiting for a fully staffed STB to tackle critical issues such as skyrocketing rates, rail service outages, and the lack of competition in freight rail service. America's manufacturers, small businesses, farmers, and energy producers continue to face increasing rail costs and lack of competitive options as the STB is unable to act without a full complement, which is why it is imperative that Vice-Chair Miller be re-nominated.

We look forward to Vice-Chair Miller's swift nomination and confirmation and look forward to working with your Administration on policies that support growth across the entire U.S. economy.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Chemistry Council
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Forest & Paper Association
American Malting Barley Association
American Petroleum Institute
Auto Alliance
Beer Institute
Corn Refiners Association
Freight Rail Customer Alliance
Glass Packaging Institute
Industrial Minerals Association – North America
Institute for Scrap Recycling Industries
International Warehouse Logistics Association
Louisiana Chemical Association
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Coal Transportation Association
National Farmers Union
National Industrial Sand Association
National Industrial Transportation League
National Mining Association
Ohio Manufacturers Association
Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association
Plastics Industry Association
Private Railcar Food and Beverage Association
Resilient Floor Covering Institute
Steel Manufacturers Association
The Chlorine Institute
The Fertilizer Institute
The Sulphur Institute
Vinyl Institute