

January 16, 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 urge you to move forward to nominate new members and a permanent Chair to serve on the Surface Transportation Board (STB). We need a fully-staffed STB committed to moving forward on freight rail policy reforms that will streamline overly burdensome regulatory procedures and promote greater competition in the rail sector.

Our organizations, including trade associations and individual companies, represent a broad cross section of industries that provide more than 7 million direct jobs and support millions more throughout the United States, and generate trillions of dollars in economic output each year. We depend on the railroads to deliver reliable and affordable service in order to remain competitive in a global market.

Competition is the foundation of the free enterprise system and helps American producers grow their businesses, generate new investments and create jobs. However, many freight rail customers have no effective competition for transportation service. The STB plays a critically important role in resolving rail rate and service issues where competition is lacking.

Congress unanimously passed the STB Reauthorization Act of 2015 to help improve how the STB operates, and the Board has initiated a number of steps to modernize overly burdensome procedures. These reforms are aligned with the pro-growth goals of your administration for many important sectors of the U.S. economy; they will help ensure that commodities, including grain, coal, minerals, energy, fertilizer, forest products, steel, and manufactured goods, can be shipped efficiently to both domestic and international markets. Unfortunately, with only two of the five STB positions filled and no permanent Chair, progress on many of these overdue regulatory reforms has stalled.

In order to regain momentum and support U.S. businesses, we must be sure that the STB is fully staffed and comprised of members that will make decisions based on current economic realities and founded on free market solutions. In addition, it is imperative both for railroads and for their customers to have confidence that the STB is a fair and unbiased arbiter of disputes. Therefore, we strongly discourage naming rail industry veterans to the Board, especially as Chair.

We welcome further discussion with you on these important nominations, and look forward to working with your Administration on policies that support growth across the entire U.S. economy.

Sincerely,

Rob Shama  
President  
Afton Chemical

Mark Kramer  
President and CEO  
Anderson Development Company

Mitch Bainwol  
President & CEO  
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers

Brad Westfall  
President  
ASHTA Chemicals Inc.

Terry Whiteside  
Chairman  
Alliance for Rail Competition.

John Bozzella  
President and CEO  
Association of Global Automakers

Jim Palmer  
President & CEO  
Allied Universal Corporation

Wayne Smith  
Chairman and CEO  
BASF Corporation

Cal Dooley  
President and CEO  
American Chemistry Council

Jim McGreevy  
President and CEO  
Beer Institute

Zippy Duvall  
President  
American Farm Bureau Federation

Mark Nikolich  
Chief Executive Officer  
Braskem America, Inc.

Donna Harman  
President and CEO  
American Forest and Paper Association

Robert Moser, Jr.  
Vice President, Global Accounts  
Brenntag North America, Inc.

Michael P. Davis  
President  
American Malting Barley Association

Sean Keohane  
President and CEO  
Cabot Corporation

Jack Gerard  
President and CEO  
American Petroleum Institute

Bob Brown  
President and CEO  
CALAMCO

Yves Willems  
Chief Executive Officer  
Carmeuse Lime & Stone

Inga Carus  
Chairman  
Carus Group Inc.

Roddey Dowd, Jr.  
CEO  
Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Co.

Mark Vergnano  
President and CEO  
The Chemours Company

Frank Reiner  
President  
The Chlorine Institute

Jay Debertin  
President and CEO  
CHS Inc.

Kirk Milling  
President & CEO  
Ciner Resources LP

John Bode  
President & CEO  
Corn Refiners Association

Jerry MacCleary  
President  
Covestro North America

Herman J. Haksteen  
CEO  
Cryo-Trans

John D. Williams  
President & CEO  
Domtar

Marc Nolen  
Vice President of Operations  
Dover Chemical Corporation

Andrew Liveris  
Chairman and CEO  
The Dow Chemical Company

Gregg Jones  
President & CEO  
EP Minerals

John Rolando  
President  
Evonik Corporation

Chris Jahn  
President  
The Fertilizer Institute

Edward T. Flynn  
EVP & President  
Genesis Alkali

Mike Doss  
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Pamela G. Bailey  
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Director, Global Logistics Purchasing  
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Robin Wiener  
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Chairman & CEO  
International Paper

Steve DeHaan  
President and CEO  
International Warehouse Logistics  
Association

Troy Shannan  
SVP of US Operations  
KraftHeinz Company

Richard L. Wilkes, Jr.  
Senior Vice President – Operations  
Kuehne Company

W Paul Delp  
President & CEO  
Lansdale Warehouse Company

Antonis Papadourakis  
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John Fischer  
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Olin Corporation

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Dick Church  
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Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association

Andrew Reese  
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Plastic Services and Products

Patrice Legare  
Chairman of the Board  
Private Railcar Food and Beverage  
Association, Inc.

Richard Garneau  
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Resolute Forest Products

Mark Gardner  
President & CEO  
Sappi North America

Avinash Puri  
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Searles Valley Minerals

Alan Minty  
VP, Supply Chain – Drilling and Production  
Services  
SECURE Energy Services

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Shell Oil Company

Michael Lacey  
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Bryan Smalley  
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Association

Philip K. Bell  
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Steel Manufacturers Association

Robert W. McBride  
President and CEO  
The Sulphur Institute

Martin Keighley  
CEO & Managing Director  
Tata Chemicals North America Inc.

Dick Doyle  
President and CEO  
Vinyl Institute