



April 10, 2024

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz:

The undersigned organizations representing the Rail Customer Coalition (RCC) support the confirmation of Surface Transportation Board (STB) Member Patrick Fuchs to a second term on the Board.

The RCC is a collection of trade associations representing a broad cross-section of manufacturing, agricultural, retail, energy and other industries that depend on the railroads to deliver reliable and affordable service so our members can remain competitive in the global market. Our members collectively provide more than 7 million jobs and produce more than \$4.8 trillion in economic output.

The STB plays a critical role in supporting a healthy rail network while ensuring the transportation needs of freight rail customers are being met. Board Member Fuchs has been instrumental in many Board initiatives, including modernizing freight rail policies and more effectively addressing service problems that have threatened the nation's supply chains. These initiatives have increased rail carrier transparency and advanced much needed reforms that American shippers have been requesting for decades.

He has also been essential in organizing several hearings with freight railroads, shippers and other stakeholders, providing an opportunity to discuss and better understand key issues. These hearings have highlighted the need for more effective and accessible STB procedures to help

resolve issues facing today's rail shippers that often lack access to competitive and reliable service options.

While more work needs to be done, this renewed focus on freight rail issues has resulted in some improvements in rail service. Strong leadership from the STB is needed now more than ever to address freight rail problems in a timely manner before they become full-blown crises.

We urge the Committee to favorably report Board Member Fuchs' nomination to the full Senate, so the STB can continue to move the country's freight rail policies forward.

Sincerely,
The Rail Customer Coalition

Agricultural Retailers Association
Alliance for Automobile Innovation
Alliance for Chemical Distribution
Alliance for Rail Competition
American Chemistry Council
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers
American Forest & Paper Association
American Malting Barley Association, Inc.
American Petroleum Institute
American Public Power Association
Association of Global Automakers
Associated Industries of Massachusetts
Chemistry Council of Missouri
Chemistry Council of New Jersey
Chemical Industry Council of California
Chemical Industry Council of Delaware
Chemical Industry Council of Illinois
The Chlorine Institute
Consumer Brands Association
Corn Refiners Association
Defoamer Industry Trade Association
Essential Minerals Association
The Fertilizer Institute
Freight Rail Customer Alliance
Foundry Association of Michigan
Georgia Chemistry Council
Glass Packaging Institute
Growth Energy
Idaho Grain Producers Association
Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
International Dairy Foods Association

International Warehouse Logistics Association
Louisiana Chemical Association
Manufacture Alabama Chemistry Advisory Council
Massachusetts Chemistry Technology Alliance
Michigan Chemistry Council
Motorcycle Industry Council
National Barley Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Farmers Union
National Grain and Feed Association
National Grange
National Industrial Transportation League
National Mining Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
National Sorghum Producers
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
Nebraska Wheat Board
New York State Chemistry Council
North Carolina Manufacturers Alliance
Ohio Chemistry Technology Council
Ohio Manufactures' Association
Pennsylvania Chemical Industry Council
Plastics Industry Association
Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association
Portland Cement Association
Private Railcar Food and Beverage Association
PVC Pipe Association
Renewable Fuels Association
Resilient Floor Covering Institute
Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association
South Carolina Manufacturers Association
Steel Manufacturers Association
The Sulphur Institute
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Texas Chemical Council
United States Fashion Industry Association
Vinyl Building Council
The Vinyl Institute
Vinyl Siding Institute
West Virginia Manufacturers Association
Wyoming Wheat Marketing Commission