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April 23, 2024

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Honorable Martin Oberman Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board 395 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423

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Dear Chairman Oberman:

The National Oilseed Processors Association (NOPA) is pleased to support the nomination of Dana Hansen to join the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC) as a large shipper representative.

Organized in 1930, NOPA represents the U.S. soybean, canola, flaxseed, safflower seed, and sunflower seed-crushing industries. NOPA's membership includes 15 members that are engaged in the processing of oilseeds for meal and oil that are utilized in the manufacturing of food, feed, renewable fuels, and industrial products. NOPA member companies operate a total of five softseed and 62 solvent extraction plants across 21 states. Collectively, NOPA members process 95 percent of all soybeans in the U.S. which accounts for over 2 billion bushels annually.

NOPA members operate 24/7. As such, all modes of transportation (trucks, railroads, barges, ocean vessels) and infrastructure are critical to the oilseed processing industry, thereby protecting and improving our industry's competitiveness both domestically and in international markets.

Mr. Hansen currently serves as Assistant Vice-President for Commercial Rail Freight for ADM, one of NOPA's member companies. Dana is a long-time member of NGFA's Rail Shipper/Receiver Committee. He also serves on the North American Freight Car Association and the STB's National Grain Car Council. His experience at ADM spans 28 years and almost all have been in rail transportation roles.

Mr. Hansen's experience at ADM makes him uniquely qualified to serve because not only is ADM part of the agricultural industry that is a large user of rail service, but he has experience with all Class I railroads and many short line railroads. Further, ADM uses many different types of rail services, such as grain shuttle and intermodal, and uses several types of railcars to service its various business units.

NOPA supports Dana's nomination and believes his diverse rail industry experience will bring valuable insight and knowledge to the RSTAC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kailee Tkacz Buller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kailee Tkacz Buller  
President and CEO  
National Oilseed Processors Association