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John F. Hack
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April 8, 2024

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Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Docket No. EP 526 (sub-No.20)
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Honorable Board Members:

I am submitting my nomination as a candidate to fill the large shipper vacancy on the Rail-Shipper Transportation Advisory Committee (RSTAC). My background and experience uniquely qualify me to fill this vacancy, having served in rail positions for both large rail carriers and large shippers. In my current role I act as Rail Operations Director managing shipments of a variety of energy products for subsidiaries of Marathon Petroleum Corporation (MPC), the largest petroleum refiner in the United States. Through its subsidiaries, MPC owns, leases and operates approximately 13,300 rail tank cars. These shipments travel across North America on every Class 1 railroad and dozens of short lines.

I am also experienced in Class I railroad operations, having worked as a train dispatcher for both Union Pacific and BNSF Railway. As a dispatcher, I developed a deep understanding of the rail lines and the networks shipments travel across every day.

Through my experience with the two largest railroads in the U.S., I have a profound appreciation for the service issues and challenges the railroads face due to fluctuations in traffic and weather events. In my role as a large shipper, I appreciate the challenges in running both unit train and manifest operations.

I currently oversee relationships with rail carriers, possessing an in-depth understanding of key issues often at the center of disputes between shippers and carriers. This encompasses managing freight agreements, industrial track agreements, demurrage, service issues, railcar storage, and interchange agreements. I have developed strong working relationships with my peers in both the carrier and shipper fields, and I am confident that my broad industry perspective would be an asset to the Committee and the Board.

For the past 10 years, I have actively participated in the conversations regarding rail transportation regulations, including meetings with Surface Transportation Board (STB) members and Congressional staffers, and through providing commentary on high impact regulatory proceedings such as HM-251 and EP 711 (reciprocal switching). In addition, for the last three years, I have served as chair of the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers' (AFPM) Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, where I have advised on rail policy decisions that impact the energy industry. In July 2016, I was selected to provide expert testimony on rail operations in front of Washington State's Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council in support of the Vancouver Energy project. I was also the primary representative for my company in our dispute over empty freight charges, Docket No. NOR 42144.

I appreciate your consideration of my nomination to fill the large shipper vacancy. I believe my unique experience and background as both a former and current representative of the carrier and shipper industry, respectively, allow me the opportunity to offer a balanced and informed opinion on matters important to the Board.

I am a U.S. citizen and am not a lobbyist or employee of the U.S. government. If selected to fill this vacancy, I will serve as a member of RSTAC for the length of the term and am willing to serve effective immediately upon appointment. I also agree to serve in a representative capacity. As a veteran of the U.S. Navy, I understand what it means to serve, and I eagerly anticipate the chance to contribute once more.

Sincerely,

/s/ John F. Hack

John F. Hack
Rail Operations Director