

Surface Transportation Board  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

December 1, 2022

The Honorable Cynthia M. Lummis  
124 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Steve Daines  
320 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso, M.D.  
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin  
306 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin Cramer  
330 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven  
338 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

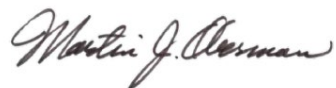
Dear Senator Lummis, Senator Daines, Senator Barrasso, Senator Manchin, Senator Cramer and Senator Hoeven,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the Surface Transportation Board's ("Board") Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee ("RETAC"). I appreciate hearing your views concerning RETAC membership and the importance of Committee participation by representatives of the coal production industry.

As you noted in your letter, the Nation's freight railroads move significant volumes of coal each year, both for the domestic and export coal markets. I agree that RETAC participation by those with deep experience and knowledge in the coal industry is important for the work of the Committee. Currently, there are several coal-related vacancies on RETAC, and I am committed to filling those vacancies as soon as possible. The Board is in the process of amending the RETAC charter, which will also incorporate additional seats from various sectors. I expect that process to be completed by the end of December. Very shortly after the charter is finalized, the Board will announce all vacancies and solicit nominations from interested parties. The solicitation of nominations will be open for 30 days. Once that solicitation is closed, I expect to have new members selected within a month. Altogether, I expect this process to be completed by early March.

A copy of your letter and this response has been placed on the Board's website as non-docketed correspondence. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Ms. Janie Sheng, Director of the Board's Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance, at 202-245-0238.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martin J. Oberman".

Martin J. Oberman  
Chairman