

December 10, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
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 write to follow-up on our January 2018 letter regarding the urgent need to fully staff the Surface Transportation Board (STB). Thank you for your attention to our concerns and your subsequent nominations of Patrick Fuchs, Michelle Schultz, and Martin Oberman to serve on the STB.

As you know, a fully staffed STB is essential to achieving freight rail policy reforms that will streamline overly burdensome regulatory procedures and promote greater competition in the rail sector.

The STB has been without a functioning complement for almost two years and subsequently American workers and businesses—manufacturers, small businesses, farmers, and energy producers—continue to face increasing rail costs and lack of competitive options as the STB is unable to act.

Unfortunately, due to unrelated issues, your well qualified nominees have stalled in the United States Senate and are at risk of remaining unconfirmed at the end of the 115th Congress. To make matters worse, Vice Chairman, Deb Miller's term and holdover year expires at the end of this year, which would leave the STB with only one of five Board Members.

Our primary concern is a functioning STB, which cannot happen without confirmation of your three pending nominees. Getting the STB on track will help your Administration maintain the current economic successes and continue to create jobs and grow the economy for all Americans.

Therefore, we write to respectfully request that you reach out to Senate leadership to underscore the importance of a functioning STB and encourage the confirmation of your STB nominees, which have already won bi-partisan approval, in the remaining weeks of the 115th Congress. We also request that you re-nominate, as soon as possible, Vice Chairman Miller to serve a second term on the board.

Thank you for your prompt and immediate attention to this matter. We look forward to continuing to work with your Administration on policies that support growth across the entire U.S. economy.

Sincerely,

Erin N. Kane
President and CEO
Advansix

Spencer Vance
President, North America
Albaugh LLC

Daren Coppock
President & CEO
Agricultural Retailers Association

Cal Dooley
President and CEO
American Chemistry Council

Donna Harman
President and CEO
American Forest & Paper Association

Chet Thompson
President and CEO
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers

Michael P. Davis
President
American Malting Barley Association

Mike Sommers
President and CEO
American Petroleum Institute

Richard Rowe
President and CEO
Arkema

Mark Nikolich
CEO
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Sean Keohane
CEO
Cabot Corporation

Stevan R. Schott
President and Chief Executive Officer
Calgon Carbon Corporation

Yves Willems
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Frank Reiner
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The Chlorine Institute

Kirk Milling
President & CEO
Ciner Resources

John W. Bode
President and CEO
Corn Refiners Association

Herman J. Haksteen
CEO
Cryo-Trans, Inc.

Jim Fitterling
Chief Executive Officer
The Dow Chemical Company

Gregg Jones
President
EP Minerals

John Rolando
President
Evonik Corporation

Chris Jahn
President and CEO
The Fertilizer Institute

Edward T. Flynn
EVP & President
Genesis Alkali

Michael Power
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Lee Lemke
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Michael Doss
President and CEO
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Craig A. Rogerson
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Hexion Inc.

Holly Alfano
CEO
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Association

Mark Ellis
President
Industrial Minerals Association – North America

Robin K. Wiener
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Mark Sutton
Chairman & CEO
International Paper

Rich Wilkes
Senior Vice President, Operations
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W. Paul Delp
President
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Antonis Papdourakis
President and CEO
LANXESS Corporation

Ron Thompson
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Gregory Bowser
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Eric R. Schnur
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Mark Ellis
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Jennifer Hedrick
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AB Ghosh
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