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Timothy A. Dehring
Senior Vice President

December 3, 2014

Chairman Daniel R. Elliott, III
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No. 2) Notice of Vacancy on Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC) – vacancy for a representative of the electric utility industry

Dear Mr. Elliott:

I am writing to suggest a highly-qualified candidate to fill the open RETAC seat as a representative of the electric utility industry. Per the information requested in the announcement, I provide the following information:

- 1) His name is Dennis Rackers and he is NIPSCO's Director of Fuels & Material Management.
- 2) He will represent the interests of coal transportation for electric generation. Although the electric industry focus is primarily coal, those interests also include rail transportation of emission control reagents such as lime, limestone, urea ammonia, and powder activated carbon.
- 3) Dennis has worked for more than three decades with coal transportation by rail, barge, truck, and conveyor from all major coal producing regions of the country.

In his current role with NIPSCO, he manages about 7 MMTPY of coal procurement and transportation from Northern Appalachia, the Illinois Basin, and the Powder River Basin.

All of NIPSCO's coal-fired generation is acutely affected by and he can speak with first-hand experience to the problems of rail congestion in Chicago Rail Hub.

Dennis has negotiated transportation agreements for rail service, barge transportation, and transload/terminal services dating back to the 1980s.

He works daily with his staff and industry peers on a wide variety of issues including dust suppression, lost coal claims, derailments, property damage, claims of force majeure, and service reliability.

- 4) Dennis is willing to serve as a member of RETAC. He enjoys learning and also helping others understand complex, often technical, matters. He is very articulate and an excellent communicator. He's a systems thinker with a talent for comprehending the "big picture" (including motivations of multiple players along with system characteristics/limitations). That distinctive trait provides insight and context that helps him assess risks and find positive outcomes and creative solutions.
- 5) He will serve as a representative of the electric industry with intentions of helping all the stakeholders in rail transportation.

Thank you for consideration. Dennis and I welcome any questions you may have about his ability to serve. His direct number is 219-647-4947.

Sincerely,



Timothy A. Dehring