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Renewable Fuels Association

July 23, 2009

Surface Transportation Board
Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 670 *Sub 2*
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

On behalf of the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA), it is my pleasure to nominate John Gray, who is responsible for Logistics and Transportation at Aventine Renewable Energy, to be appointed as a member of the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC) as a biofuels producer. Aventine Renewable Energy has supplied more than 700 million gallons annually of the nation's growing ethanol needs through its wholly owned plant in Pekin, Illinois, partially-owned Nebraska Energy plant in Aurora, Nebraska, and business relationships and marketing alliances. Mr. Gray has "hands on" experience in all aspects of the ethanol business, with over 12 years of involvement in ethanol manufacturing, marketing and transportation.

The RFA is the national trade association representing the U.S. ethanol industry. Ethanol has become an essential component of the U.S. motor fuel market. Ethanol has become an essential component of the U.S. motor fuel market. Today, ethanol is blended in more than 70 percent of the nation's fuel, and is sold virtually from coast to coast and border to border. In 2008, approximately 180 biorefineries in 26 states produced 9.25 billion gallons of ethanol, displacing the need for 320 million barrels of oil. Today, another 18 facilities are under construction, while nearly half a dozen existing facilities are expanding. When these projects are complete, the industry will have the capacity to produce more than 14 billion gallons of renewable ethanol. Last year, the U.S. renewable fuels industry's operating capacity increased by 2.7 billion gallons, a 34 percent increase over 2007. The establishment of the RETAC is important and timely given the dramatic growth of the domestic ethanol industry, and the increasingly important role of continued development of rail infrastructure for our nation's biofuels industry.

With over 28 years of fuel and transportation experience, Mr. Gray's dedication to the biofuels industry is undeniable. He was instrumental in pioneering the development of large scale ethanol distribution infrastructure such as the unit train handling terminal at Sewaren, New Jersey. Mr. Gray has worked with all of the Class I Railroads and many of the Shortlines to establish efficient and effective logistics for biofuels into many new markets throughout the United States. In addition to having good industry relationships with most of the large ethanol producers, he has worked closely with railroad tank car manufacturers, biodiesel companies, and most of the fuel terminalling companies in the country.

Over the past several years, the ethanol industry has expanded a "Virtual Pipeline" through aggressive use of the rail system, barge and truck traffic. As a result, we can move product quickly to those areas where it is needed. Many ethanol plants have the capability to load unit trains of ethanol for shipment to ethanol terminals in key markets. Unit trains are quickly becoming the norm, not the

exception, which was not the case just a few years ago. This growth required the rapid and continuing development of infrastructure in many areas around the country that had not previously used ethanol. Railroad companies are working with our industry to develop infrastructure to meet future demand for ethanol. We will continue to work together to put in place the necessary infrastructure to make sure that in any market we need to ship ethanol there is rail access at gasoline terminals, and that those terminals are able to take unit trains.

With the ethanol industry widely viewed as the railroads likely biggest potential growth driver, the RFA has a direct interest in, and resolutely supports, the RETAC. Mr. Gray knows firsthand that biofuels have opportunities for expansion in new and growing markets, and would prove to be an excellent resource for the RETAC. The RFA respectfully asks the Surface Transportation Board to consider John Gray to be a representative of biofuels producers on the RETAC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Dinneen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bob Dinneen
President and CEO