

TRANSPORTATION ECONOMICS

July 30, 2007

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The Honorable Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary,
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: STB Ex Parte No. 670:
Establishment of a Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee

Dear Secretary Williams:

I am glad that Chairman Nottingham, Vice Chairman Buttrey, and Board Member Dr. Mulvey are moving forward on their vision of establishing an energy task force. The Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC) will help the Board oversee and alert it of potential problems in the energy industry as they intersect with the transportation industry. The RETAC should allow a proactive assessment of problems that arise in industry and this strategic foresight will allow Board to propose solutions to potential hurdles in the future in a timely manner

I have thought diligently about your request for nominations to the RETAC. Four individuals come to mind immediately that would devote considerable time and energy to making the RETAC a success. I have spoken with them and they agree to serve according to the terms outlined in EP 670. With my nominations, I am including, *infra*, a little information about each and the interests that they represent and the experience they would bring to the RETAC

Randy Rahm

Mr. Rahm is the Chief Operations Officer of Ethanex Energy, Inc. a start up public ethanol company. Ethanex is currently developing three 132 million gallons per year ethanol plants. Prior to joining Ethanex Mr. Rahm was the Director, Fuel Services for Westar Energy, Inc. He was responsible for coal procurement and transportation for over 13.5 million tons annually. Prior to joining Westar Energy he was employed by Amax Coal West, Inc. for 10 years in Gillette, WY as the Special Projects Manager. Mr. Rahm has over 30 years experience in the coal industry and is a past chairman of the ASME's Fuels and Combustion Technology Division. Mr. Rahm is the founder, former Chairman

and currently the Executive Director of the Powder River Basin (PRB) Coal Users' Group. The PRB Coal Users' Group has over 1000 members of which 635 are from 76 operating companies. In 2006 the Secretary of Energy appointed Mr. Rahm to the National Coal Council. In 2005 -2006 Mr. Rahm chaired the National Coal Transportation Association's Spraying Committee which was evaluating the dust suppressant encrusting agents for rail car topping. This was a result of the May 2005 coal train derailments in the Powder River Basin.

As you can see, Mr. Rahm is unique individual with a perspective of, not only on the problems being faced by the ethanol industry, but of the intricacies of transporting PRB coal. He has worked intimately with both electricity producers and railroads. Mr. Rahm's appointment to the RETAC would bring an unparalleled multi-faceted consideration of the problems facing the energy (both electricity and ethanol) and transportation sectors.

Robert Mortenson

Mr. Mortenson is Vice President Business Development FCStone Group LLC and is also President of Farmers Commodities Transportation Company LLC. In the latter position his responsibility is to assist customers in all aspects of their transportation activities with the main focus being on managing the transportation-related needs of each customer's overall grain marketing plans. This involves providing strategic consulting, freight brokerage, short term rail leasing, and rate assistance. Mr. Mortenson is intimately involved in the nascent ethanol industry and is helping coordinate changes in the rail industry to accommodate this new line of business.

Paul Bowers

Mr. Bowers is President of Southern Company Generation. Mr. Bowers has wide ranging expertise in plant operations, engineering and construction services, fuel services, generation planning and development; energy marketing; and research and environmental affairs. Mr. Bowers previously served as Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer for Southern Company; President and CEO of South Western Electricity Plc; and in marketing positions for Georgia Power, SCS and Gulf Power. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of West Florida and a master's degree in management. Mr. Bowers wide breadth of experience will bring to the RETAC a positive and richly experienced background.

James Roberts

Mr. Roberts is the Chief Executive Officer of Foundation Coal. Before this position, Mr. Roberts was President and Chief Executive Officer of RAG American Coal Holdings, Inc. Mr. Roberts has also worked in senior management positions with CoalARBED International Trading, Leckie Smokeless Coal Company, and Solar Fuel Company. Mr. Roberts has a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration from Pennsylvania State University and holds professional accounting certifications from both Pennsylvania and West Virginia boards of Accountancy. Mr. Roberts is a director of the National Mining

Association and serves as Vice Chairman. Mr. Roberts also serves as a director of The Center for Energy and Economic Development (CEED) and holds executive committee membership on the National Coal Council

I am sure that you will have many nominations for the RETAC, but confirming these individuals will provide the RETAC with a unique perspective. Moreover, these individual will bring a positive, can-do attitude to the RETAC mission. They understand that if selected they will not be provided any compensation for serving, travel, or per diem and that they must serve a two-year term

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any question regarding these individuals via telephone at 703-255-1273 or via e-mail at mawan@transportationeconomics.com.

Respectfully Submitted.

Mazhar Ali Awan

Mazhar Ali Awan,
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