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**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

August 3, 2007

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Mr. Scott M. Zimmerman, Acting Director  
Office of Congressional and Public Services  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423-001

Re: STB Ex Parte No. 670

Dear Mr. Zimmerman:

On July 17, 2007, the Surface Transportation Board (STB, or alternately, the Board) served a decision in Ex Parte No. 670, Establishment of a Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC). RETAC will provide advice and guidance to the Board, and serve as a forum for discussion of emerging issues, regarding the transportation by rail of energy resources, particularly, but not necessarily limited to, coal, ethanol, and other biofuels.

In its decision, the Board requested suggestions for candidates for membership on RETAC. The decision also stated that the Chairman of the Board may invite representatives from the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Energy, and Transportation, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, to serve on RETAC in advisory capacities as *ex officio* (non-voting) members.

The Energy Information Administration (EIA), the data and analysis agency of the Department of Energy, is one of the principal Federal statistical agencies and has responsibility for understanding the impact of railroads on energy resources. EIA requests that Mr. Thomas Schmitz be invited to serve on RETAC as an *ex officio* (non-voting) member. Mr. Schmitz is the Director of EIA's Coal, Nuclear, and Renewable Fuels Division. He is responsible for carrying out a central, comprehensive, and unified energy data and information program which collects, analyzes, and disseminates data and information relevant to coal, ethanol, and other biofuels, including consumption, production, reserves, and technology. These data and analyses are intended, in part, to provide information relevant to the adequacy of those resources to meet demands in the near and longer term future for the Nation's economic and social needs. Railroads play a key role in the supply chain necessary to assure the adequacy of coal, ethanol, and other biofuels to meet energy demands in the near and longer term future.

Mr. Schmitz is well qualified to serve on RETAC. In addition to his responsibilities and experience with EIA, Mr. Schmitz has significant and broad-based experience with railroad regulation, operations, and economics. Mr. Schmitz served as both the Chief of the Cost and Financial Analysis Section, and later as Chief of the Economic Analysis Section at the STB's predecessor agency, the Interstate Commerce Commission. Additionally, Mr. Schmitz has 15 years of management and economic consulting experience in logistics and supply chain management; as a manager with A.T. Kearney, a Director with the Fieldston Co., a Vice President with Putnam-Hayes-Bartlett, and as President of his own firm TASConsulting. Mr.

Schmitz has given testimony in which he was qualified as an expert witness in railroad matters. I'm sure he would be a valuable addition to your Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me by telephone at (202) 586-4361 or by e-mail at [guy.caruso@eia.doe.gov](mailto:guy.caruso@eia.doe.gov) if you would like to discuss this in greater detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard Greenblatt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H" and a long, sweeping tail.

Guy F. Caruso  
Administrator  
Energy Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Energy