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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 4, 2010

OCT 8 2010

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

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Office of Proceedings
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Public Record

RE: STB Docket No. EP 698

Dear Ms. Brown:

The August 3, 2010 announcement by the Board on the formation of the Toxic by Inhalation Hazard Common Carrier Transportation Advisory Committee (TIHCCTAC) is a welcome move that will hopefully bring both railroads and TIH shippers together on this very important issue. Our nation's economy needs a well thought-out solution to the rate and liability challenges currently facing this sector.

In reviewing the Board's full decision, I am concerned, however, that the new committee does not include broader representation of the TIH shipper community. According to the Department of Transportation, there are more than 20 TIH materials that are shipped by rail. While chlorine and anhydrous ammonia represent the majority of TIH shipments, other materials play a critical role for U.S. industry and consumers every day. The current committee proposed by the Board does not ensure that shippers of these non-chlorine/non-anhydrous TIH materials will be able to add their experiences and knowledge to this important discussion.

These issues impact TIH users/manufacturers located in the communities I represent, and the recommendations made by the TIHCCTAC committee will have an impact on their operations. As such, I urge the Board to adjust the final committee structure to ensure that there will be direct representation from shippers of these smaller-volume, industry-critical TIH materials.

I appreciate your attention to this matter. Should you have any additional questions please feel free to contact me.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pete Olson".

Pete Olson
Member of Congress