



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

January 29, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Appointment of Robert E. Primus as Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board

Dear Mr. President:

Last November, current Surface Transportation Board Chairman, Martin J. Oberman, announced his intent to retire, effective in the spring of 2024. Mr. Oberman will do so after serving on the Board since 2019 and following your designation as Chairman on January 21, 2021. With this in mind, we are writing on behalf of the leaders of all thirteen (13) rail unions, which represent more than 140,000 railroad workers on commuter, passenger, and freight rail lines across the United States, to enthusiastically urge you to appoint Robert E. Primus as the next Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board.

Mr. Primus has served railroad workers, the country, and our freight and passenger rail networks with distinction since being sworn in as a Member of the Surface Transportation Board on January 7, 2021. We are grateful that you chose to renominate him in 2022, when he was subsequently confirmed for a full, five-year, second term. He has been a dedicated public servant for nearly thirty years and continually demonstrates a commitment to uphold the rights of workers, not only during his time on the Board, but his time in Congress as well.

With respect to railroad workers, Mr. Primus has consistently stood up to freight rail executives and demanded accountability for their treatment of Rail Labor. This was no more evident than during the height of the 2022 freight rail service crisis. Mr. Primus' support for Rail Labor came to the forefront during an April 2022 Surface Transportation Board hearing, "Urgent Issues in the Freight Rail Service," when he exposed the desire of freight rail executives to drastically reduce Rail Labor and ultimately have one-man crews, issues vehemently opposed by Mr. Primus and your Administration.

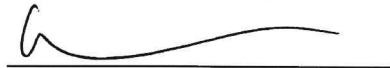
Mr. Primus is a true friend to Rail Labor and an asset to the Surface Transportation Board and our country. He has made a singularly positive difference in the lives of our members and, as Chairman, we are confident that he will continue to move the Surface Transportation Board forward to further strengthen our nation's freight and passenger rail networks. Accordingly, as the leaders of Rail Labor, we urge you to appoint Mr. Primus to the office of Chairman following Mr. Oberman's retirement.

Mr. President, thank you in advance for your most serious consideration of this request.

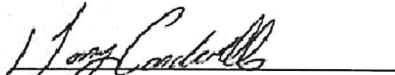
Sincerely and respectfully yours,



L. E. Dowell, President
American Train Dispatchers Association



E. A. Hall, President
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen / Teamsters Rail Conference



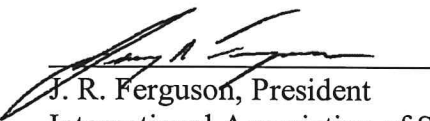
T. D. Cardwell, President
Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division / Teamsters Rail Conference



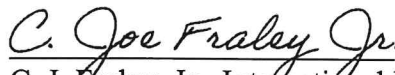
M. S. Baldwin, President
Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen



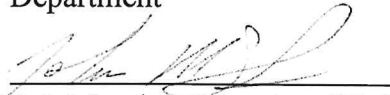
J. T. Hartford, Special Assistant to the International President
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



J. R. Ferguson, President
International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers – Transportation Division



C. J. Fraley, Jr., International Representative
International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers – Mechanical Department

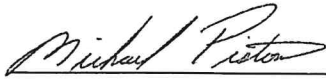


J. J. Mansker, Director of Railroad Lodge Services
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers

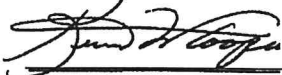
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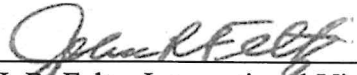
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M. T. Pistone, President & Secretary-Treasurer
National Conference of Firemen & Oilers, District of Local 32BJ, SEIU



Kenneth W. Cooper, International President
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers



J. R. Feltz, International Vice President & Railroad Division Director
Transport Workers Union of America



A. P. Maratea, President
Transportation Communications Union / IAM



D. E. Grissom, General President
Carmen Division of Transportation Communications Union / IAM

cc: Sean O'Brien, IBT General President
Greg Regan, President, Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO