

November 3, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science &
Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science &
Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

The undersigned groups representing agricultural producers and agribusinesses strongly endorse and respectfully urge you to confirm Michelle Schultz for another term at the Surface Transportation Board (STB) and Richard Kloster for a first term.

The STB provides oversight of the freight rail marketplace, and STB Vice Chairman Schultz understands its vital role having been a board member for almost five years and overseeing the rail industry's recovery from very rough rail service conditions. As the Board considers a proposal for the largest rail merger in history, her deep understanding of STB services in the American Supply chain will be a great resource.

We are impressed by the extensive rail industry experience of Mr. Kloster, who founded Integrity Rail Partners Inc., a private transportation consulting company. Prior roles include Senior Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer for Alltrantek, Senior Consultant on freight transportation for FTR, President of Advanced Rail Equipment Solutions and partner for Northern American Transport Solutions. He also has served on the boards of the National Industrial Transportation League and the Railway Supply Institute.

Given the important matters pending at the STB, we urge swift movement to confirm Michelle Schultz for a second term at the STB and Richard Kloster to a first term.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Feed Industry Association
AmericanHort
American Malting Barley Association
American Seed Trade Association
American Soybean Association
International Fresh Produce Association
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Grain and Feed Association
National Milk Producers Federation

North American Millers' Association
Pet Food Institute
The Fertilizer Institute
USA Rice
U.S. Rice Producers Association

Cc: Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
The Honorable John Thune, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate