

March 12, 2018

The Honorable John Thune  
Chairman  
Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation  
512 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation  
425 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Deb Fischer  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Surface Transportation  
512 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gary Peters  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Surface Transportation  
425 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

***Re: Surface Transportation Board (STB) Nominees; support for Mr. Patrick Fuchs and Ms. Michelle Schultz***

Dear Chairman Thune, Ranking Member Nelson, Subcommittee Chair Fischer and Ranking Member Peters:

On behalf of our members in the fertilizer and agribusiness community, we write to express our strong support for the nominations of Mr. Patrick Fuchs and Ms. Michelle Schultz to be Members of the Surface Transportation Board (STB).

The STB provides critical rail marketplace oversight for shippers in the agriculture sector, many of which are dependent upon a single railroad for service. STB's current Commissioners have made great progress implementing the *STB Reauthorization Act of 2015* (Public Law No. 114-110). This law and their efforts are helping the agency better reflect the modern day rail marketplace. STB modernization, including but not limited to the *STB Reauthorization Act of 2015*, will help farmers, agribusinesses, and manufacturers be more competitive in the global marketplace.

Both nominees have the knowledge and expertise to serve as Board Members and to lead and advance efforts to modernize the Agency, which is critical to railroads, shippers, and the American economy. It has been too long since the STB was fully staffed. We urge you to move as quickly as possible to confirm Mr. Fuchs and Ms. Schultz.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We look forward to working with you in support of the agriculture community and our great nation. Should you need further information, please contact Justin Louchheim at The Fertilizer Institute at 202-515-2718 or [jlouchheim@tfi.org](mailto:jlouchheim@tfi.org) or Richard Gupton at the Agricultural Retailers Association at 202-595-1699 or [Richard@aradc.org](mailto:Richard@aradc.org).

Sincerely,

The Fertilizer Institute  
Agribusiness Council of Indiana  
Far West Agribusiness Association  
Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association  
Michigan Agri-Business Association  
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers  
New York State Agribusiness Association  
Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association  
South Dakota Agri-Business Association  
Western Plant Health Association  
Wyoming Wheat Marketing Commission

Agricultural Retailers Association  
Alabama Agribusiness Council  
Ohio AgriBusiness Association  
Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association  
Michigan Bean Shippers  
Nebraska Agri-Business Association  
North Dakota Agricultural Association  
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association  
Texas Ag Industries Association  
Wyoming Ag-Business Association

Cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation