



March 12, 2026

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:

On behalf of the American Chemistry Council (ACC), I endorse the nomination of Richard Kloster to serve on the U.S. Surface Transportation Board (STB). ACC urges the Committee to move expeditiously to review and favorably report his nomination for confirmation by the full Senate.

ACC represents more than 190 of America's leading chemical companies. Our members produce a wide variety of chemicals, polymers, and related products that make our lives and our world healthier, safer, more productive, and more sustainable. The business of chemistry supports over 25% of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product and directly touches nearly all manufactured goods. Our industry is one of the largest freight rail customers, shipping 2.1 million carloads annually. We rely on a strong, resilient, and efficient freight transportation network to support our domestic and international supply chains.

The STB plays a critical role in maintaining a healthy and competitive freight rail network while protecting the interests of rail customers and preventing undue concentration of market power. The Board faces critical challenges in modernizing its regulatory framework and reviewing the largest railroad merger ever proposed. Strong leadership is needed now more than ever to help ensure that the freight rail network delivers for U.S. manufacturers and serves the public interest.

Mr. Kloster's expertise and broad experience with rail carriers, suppliers, and customers would be a welcome addition to the Board. ACC believes that, if confirmed, he will help continue to move the country's freight rail policies forward.

Thank you for your attention to this important nomination.

Sincerely,

Chris Jahn
President & CEO
American Chemistry Council

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