March XX, 2018

The Honorable John Thune The Honorable Bill Nelson

Chairman Ranking Member

Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation

512 Dirksen Senate Building 425 Hart Senate Building

Washington, DC 20510 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Deb Fischer The Honorable Gary Peters

Chair Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation Subcommittee on Surface Transportation

512 Dirksen Senate Building 425 Hart Senate Building

Washington, DC 20510 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 nomination 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 202-515-2718 or [jlouchheim@tfi.org](mailto:jlouchheim@tfi.org) or Richard Gupton at 202-595-1699 or [Richard@aradc.org](mailto:Richard@aradc.org).

Sincerely,

The Fertilizer Institute Agricultural Retailers Association

Agribusiness Council of Indiana

Alabama Agribusiness Council

Ohio AgriBusiness Association

Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association

Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association

Michigan Agri-Business Association

Michigan Bean Shippers

Minnesota Crop Production Retailers

Nebraska Agri-Business Association

North Dakota Agricultural Association

Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association

Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association

South Dakota Agri-Business Association

Texas Ag Industries Association

Western Plant Health Association

Wyoming Ag-Business Association

Wyoming Wheat Marketing Commission

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