

April 6, 2021

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
US Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Bur  
HELP Committee Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Ranking Member Burr,

We write to urge you to support the renomination of Kyle Fortson to be a member of the National Mediation Board (NMB). President Biden will soon nominate two new Democratic members of the board, leaving only one Republican seat, which we believe should be filled by Ms. Fortson.

As an independent federal government agency, the NMB facilitates the relationship and settles disputes between labor and management within the railroad and airline industries of the United States. The three-member board is statutorily tasked with preventing disruptions to the commerce or the operation of any industry carrier, giving it a critical role in the smooth functioning of the nation's economy.

Ms. Fortson currently serves as the Chairman of the NMB and previously held the position between 2018 and 2019. Her tenure as Chairman has been marked by the resolution of several high-profile mediation cases, and Ms. Fortson was the key architect of a rule providing employees covered by the Railway Labor Act a clear and simple path to removing unwanted union representation.

Additionally, under Ms. Fortson's watch, the NMB's long-standing backlog of arbitration cases was reduced by nearly 60%. Before being confirmed to the NMB, she served as Labor Policy Director for this committee's previous Chairman, Senator Lamar Alexander, where she amassed a bounty of experience working on issues related to labor and employment.

As the nation's labor market continues to recover from the COVID-19 induced pandemic, it is critical that the economy avoid unnecessary disruptions, and the NMB will continue to play an important role in avoiding them in the airline and railroad industries. We believe that Ms. Fortson is the right choice to continue at the NMB at this time, and respectfully request that members of the Senate HELP Committee support her renomination.

Sincerely,

Jessica Anderson  
Executive Director  
Heritage Action for America

Tom Herbert  
Federal Affairs Manager  
Americans for Tax Reform  
Americans for Tax Reform  
Executive Director  
Open Competition Center

F. Vincent Vernuccio  
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President  
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