



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
Investigative Hearing

Norfolk Southern Railway general merchandise freight train 32N
derailment with subsequent hazardous material release and fires,
in East Palestine, Ohio, on February 3, 2023

GROUP	A
EXHIBIT	
21	

Agency / Organization

The Association of American Railroads

Title

Biography of Michael J. Rush



Michael J. Rush

Senior Vice President – Safety and Operations

Michael J. Rush currently serves as senior vice president – safety and operations for the Association of American Railroads (AAR), the world’s leading railroad policy, research and standard setting organization for the freight and passenger railroads of the United States, Canada and Mexico.

In this position, Rush serves as the industry’s liaison with regulatory bodies including the U.S. Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Homeland Security. Among other responsibilities, Rush oversees the rail industry’s interchange standards, homeland security plan, and environmental protection and safety programs.

Rush has 37 years of experience at AAR. Prior to his current position, Rush served as associate general counsel. In this role, Rush counseled AAR and its member railroads on environment and safety issues and other corporate matters of concern. An expert in regulatory law, Rush represented AAR in various regulatory agency and legislative activities, testifying at hearings and drafting comments, briefs, and Congressional testimony.

Education

Rush is a graduate, with honors, of the National Law Center, George Washington University. He received a Bachelor of Arts, cum laude, from Wesleyan University.

Association of American Railroads

America's freight railroads operate the safest, most efficient, cost-effective and environmentally sound freight transportation system in the world — and the Association of American Railroads (AAR) is committed to keeping it that way. AAR is the world's leading railroad policy, research and technology organization focusing on the safety and productivity of rail carriers. AAR members include the major freight railroads of the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, as well as passenger railroads.