



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

August 3, 2021

Dear Business Owner/Representative:

Your business was selected to participate in a brief, voluntary survey designed to measure your experiences with and perceptions of railroad industry contracting practices. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is a component within the U.S. Department of Transportation that oversees the Nation's railroad system. FRA is committed to ensuring equitable, non-discriminatory contracting practices in the industries that provide goods and services to FRA-funded projects. To support this work, FRA is conducting an anonymous study to determine whether minority- and women-owned small businesses have been subjected to discrimination in railroad industry contracting.

I ask that you please take the time (estimated 5-7 minutes) to complete this survey. Even if you have not performed any work for an FRA grant recipient as a prime or sub-contractor, we are interested in knowing your experiences contracting in the railroad industry, so that we better understand the contracting practices of FRA grant recipients. We are soliciting the participation of all types of firms that could potentially provide goods and services to FRA grant recipients. The National Opinion Research Center (NORC), an experienced survey organization affiliated with the University of Chicago, is conducting this short survey on our behalf.

I understand that you have many demands on your time, and we are very grateful to you for taking part in this important survey. Businesses in the study are randomly selected to ensure that they represent your industry and we therefore ask that you not share this survey with any other businesses; substitution is not allowed. Voluntary participation by you and other business owners will ensure that this study is a success.

Thank you in advance for your participation and for your contribution to the American economy. If you would like additional information on this study, please feel free to reach out to the NORC team at (877) 324-4106.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pete Buttigieg".

Pete Buttigieg