

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 24, 2021

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Mrs. Cynthia Brown  
Chief  
Section of Administration  
Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
Washington, DC 20423

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March 24, 2021  
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Public Record

Dear Mrs. Brown,

We write in regard to CSX Transportation's planned purchase of Pan-Am Railways and request that the Surface Transportation Board classify this as a significant transaction.

The State of Vermont has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in rail lines across the state, preserving and upgrading these assets for the benefit of local businesses and residents. A central goal behind these investments has been to ensure freight customers have access to competitive prices in the state and within the region. Given that the proposed transaction will meaningfully alter the competitive status quo in Vermont and New England it is our belief that it cannot be considered a minor transaction.

While our understanding is that the application references commitments to preserve existing competitive conditions, additional details are needed to ensure protections for Vermont freight rail customers will be in place. Without competitive guarantees, CSX's acquisition risks anticompetitive harms to stakeholders in Vermont and across the region. In order to fully weigh the impact on public interest, we believe additional time and information is needed for review of the application and that the Board should determine this to be a significant transaction.

Thank you for the consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY  
United States Senator



BERNARD SANDERS  
United States Senator



PETER WELCH  
United States Congressman