



EI-31657

January 2, 2022

Joshua Wayland
Surface Transportation Board, c/o VHB
Attention: Environmental Filing Docket No. FD 36500
940 Main Campus Drive., Suite 500

Re: Canadian Pacific/Kansas City Southern Merger Proposal; FD 36500; EIS Scoping

Dear Mr. Wayland:

The Quad Cities Chamber is made up of a diverse network of business leaders throughout the Quad Cities Region including Clinton, Scott, and Muscatine Counties in Iowa. Dedicated to fostering a vibrant business community and growing the regional economy, the Chamber supports initiatives that expand access to and keep the Region competitive in the global market. The merger between Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern offers an opportunity to bring increased commerce, economic development, and resources to the Quad Cities Region.

While the proposed merger will help expand our regional economy, there are safety and accessibility concerns regarding the substantial increase in freight traffic. The rail corridor runs directly through many of our region's residential neighborhoods, business parks, and downtowns, impacting the daily health and safety for businesses, workers, residents, and visitors.

Whenever trains pass through or remain stationary, many of our businesses, cultural amenities, and public utilities, like water resources, become inaccessible. With only one access point to many of these properties, increased rail traffic may cause severe disruptions in business operations, prevent timely access of emergency services and access to critical infrastructure. Additionally, parks and other amenities bifurcated by the train tracks will be less accessible while creating a potential health and safety hazard without further capital improvements.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on the scoping of the draft EIS. We look forward to working with the Surface Transportation Board, Canadian Pacific, and Kansas City Southern on the opportunities presented by this merger and to mitigate the health and safety impact to residents, businesses, critical infrastructure, and cultural amenities due to increased rail traffic along the corridor.

If you would like to discuss any of these concerns further, please contact the Quad Cities Chamber at 563.322.1706.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "PSJR", is written over a light blue circular background.

Paul Rumler
President & CEO