

Surface Transportation Board
395 East Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Canadian Pacific Railway Acquisition of Kansas City Southern, Docket #FD-36500

Dear members of the Surface Transportation Board,

As a dedicated professional in the transportation industry, I implore you to deeply scrutinize the widespread ramifications of the proposed Canadian Pacific-Kansas City Southern merger. Beyond that, you must thoroughly examine best-practice mitigation tactics to offset detrimental impacts to residents.

Every day nearly 200,000 Chicago citizens rely on Metra for their daily commutes. Should this merger go through, Metra will be subjected to the projected addition of eight freight trains per day on the rail line the companies share. This congestion on the shared railway is slated to increase Metra delays by 400 percent, subjecting unfathomable impacts on the daily routines of thousands of my neighbors and friends.

Beyond travel delays, increased freight train traffic poses significant safety concerns. The length of one freight train could extend beyond two miles long—regularly blocking rail crossings that would effectively cut off residents from emergency services. Also, in light of a recent train derailment in Minnesota, we're all rightfully concerned about the influx of hazardous substances Canadian Pacific plans to transport through our communities.

This merger will also unnecessarily inundate roads with excessive traffic. Trains and trucks operate in tandem—and with more incoming trains, Chicago will require more trucks to transport goods. In fact, Canadian Pacific submitted data projecting a 70 percent to 82 percent increase in truck traffic throughout the city. Each day, freight trains will add more than 300 trucks on our roads. I am an Assistant District Manager at Penske Truck Leasing, and I deeply understand the impact added trucks can have on our region's roads—increased traffic, heightened risk of accidents, and substantial environmental consequences.

In consideration for the wellbeing of my fellow residents, please, exhaustively review the threats posed to residents' safety and quality of life as a consequence of this merger. Other than increased profits to the combined companies, this deal does virtually nothing to benefit the public. The STB must consider any and all consequences to residents of Greater Chicago, and make certain that comprehensive mitigation tactics are employed to ensure that citizens are safeguarded from undue ramifications.

Regards,

Nick Riccardi