

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,

My name is Amy DeMarino, and I am a resident of Cook County, Illinois. I am an educator, local school board member, and former Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) member. I write this letter on behalf of my community to express deep concern with the proposed Canadian Pacific/Kansas City Southern (CP-KCS) Merger. This merger poses a serious threat to the health and safety of communities like mine – yet despite its size and scope, it seems to have evaded proper scrutiny. Before anything moves forward, you must conduct a thorough review to ensure that the risks of this merger are adequately assessed.

A key concern of mine relates to both rail safety and rail reliability. Residents of Cook County depend on reliable [Metra](#) service. Teachers, students, and some [200,000](#) other passengers rely on the Metra to commute each day. Metra itself has argued [against](#) this merger, citing the risk of “new disruptive delays to commuter rail schedules and an exacerbation of safety issues caused by CP trains traveling through stations at busy commuter times.” According to Metra, due to shared lines, the merger may increase delays by up to [400 percent](#).

This deal also threatens our environment. President Biden campaigned on a promise to halt construction of the [Keystone XL pipeline](#). This merger would essentially have the same harmful effects, encouraging the transport and proliferation of dirty oil products—like Bitumen—across our region. To note, Bitumen generates more than twice as many [emissions](#) per barrel compared to other types of North American crude oil. Just this month, the Chicago area received a [failing grade](#) from the American Lung Association for ozone air pollution. Increased train traffic can lead to vehicular traffic, which was [cited](#) as among the chief reasons for the area’s poor air quality. This merger may only worsen the issue, putting all – specifically underserved – communities at risk.

In 2013, an oil train in Quebec caught fire and [killed](#) 47 people. Just two years ago, a Canadian Pacific train [derailed](#) in Canada, spilling almost half a million gallons of oil, which also caught on fire. If this merger is bringing more of these dangerous trains to our region, we ought to be able to ask questions and air our concerns. Right now, the lack of in-person public hearings are preventing us from doing so.

I’ve spent my entire career advocating for my students, my community, and the people of Illinois. It is evident that this merger poses a great risk to our ability to live without disruption,

stay safe, and breathe clean air. Through the public review process, the federal government must carefully consider both the risks and benefits of this merger, as it has done with similar proposals in the [past](#). We must assess the risks beforehand, not reflect on the consequences afterward.

Thank you,

Amy DeMarino
Educator