



TOWN OF CAMPBELL FIRE DEPARTMENT

2219 Bainbridge Street • La Crosse, Wisconsin 54603

EI-32058

Surface Transportation Board
395 East St. SW
Washington, DC 20423

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

Dear Surface Transportation Board,

As a first responder in the La Crosse, Wisconsin area, I am familiar with the train traffic through our community – particularly the Empire Builder passenger route. Recently, it came to our fire department's attention that there would be a potential increase in Amtrak trains going through our service area due to the proposed Canadian Pacific-Kansas City Southern merger. The lack of data that has been presented regarding the increase of trains in the La Crosse area and dozens of communities throughout Wisconsin is concerning. On behalf of the Town of Campbell Fire Department we sincerely request that the United States Surface Transportation Board (STB) gathers the necessary data that fully accounts for all increases in trains that result from this merger and its effects on first responder response and community safety.

Not only would the proposed merger increase train traffic by as much as 50% as some news outlets have reported, but an even greater potential impact would be when the trains switch yards/tracks. The switching of yards/tracks can take upwards of 10-15 minutes. When each second matters in an emergency call, 10-15 minutes is unacceptable to our department and the community members/taxpayers who rely on a timely response.

As a Fire Chief that is committed to public safety and ensuring our firefighting personnel have the most tools available to them, I would request the STB work with all affected first responders who may be impacted by this proposed merger to ensure safety is the priority. Gathering as much additional information to assess this impact in collaboration with first responders is best for all parties involved.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathaniel J. Melby".

Nathaniel J. Melby
Fire Chief, Town of Campbell Fire Department