

HARRIS COUNTY

COMMISSIONER RODNEY ELLIS

PRECINCT ONE

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June 23, 2022

Chairman Martin Oberman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423
Submitted via email

Re: Request for Site Visit and Public Hearing regarding KCS-CP proposed merger

Dear Chairman Oberman,

I am the County Commissioner for Harris County Precinct One, which is home to 1.1 million residents living within the City of Houston and unincorporated communities. Late last year my office submitted comments to the Surface Board of Transportation on the proposed merger of Kansas City Southern and Canadian Pacific railroads. Those comments detailed misgivings about the merger's impact on local air quality, climate planning, traffic flows, and disaster response. Since the submission of our comments, inconsistencies in environmental impact data provided by merger partners have only heightened our concerns.

Harris County, Texas is the largest population center along the pathway of the proposed merger and one of two non-attainment areas that will be impacted should the merger be approved. Despite the size of our county, the local frontline environmental justice communities that will be impacted, and our well-chronicled efforts towards improving air quality my office has not been contacted by representatives of Kansas City Southern or Canadian Pacific to discuss our region's increased risk and mitigation commitments. **To allow our concerns to remain unaddressed as evaluation of this proposed merger continues would constitute a serious regulatory oversight. As such, I request a site visit by staff and members of the Surface Transportation Board and local public hearing on the impacts of the proposed merger.**

Best,

Commissioner Rodney Ellis

Harris County Precinct One