

**APPLETON FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Jeremy J. Hansen, Fire Chief
700 N. Drew Street • Appleton, WI 54911
(920) 832-5810

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United State Surface Transportation Board
395 East Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: FD 36500 – Canadian Pacific/Kansas City Southern Merger

Dear Director Gosselin:

It is an honor to serve as the Fire Chief for the City of Appleton, Wisconsin. I am proud of the unwavering devotion shown by the men and women of the Appleton Fire Department. They are devoted to our community and strive for excellence in everything they do. The members are dedicated to reducing the effects of fires and dangerous conditions through training and education, prevention and public education, rescue and emergency response activities. The City of Appleton and the Appleton Fire Department are committed to building strong partnerships to protect lives and property within the community we serve. Our combined efforts enhance safety and the quality of life in the Fox Valley.

It is because of the dedication and devotion of our committed fire fighters and emergency response team and the community members which we serve, that I am writing to you today. During the afternoon of June 22nd, the Appleton Fire Department was requested to respond near the intersection of East Eagle Flats Parkway and South Lawe Street. Here, a semi-truck was involved in a motor vehicle crash and stuck on the railroad. Firefighters were able to contact and stop the approaching train. It took over an hour to clear the tracks.

While we were able to address and avoid train/semi collision, injury and/or death during this situation, it is one that is avoidable if all involved take responsibility and place health and safety as their number one goal. It has come to my attention that the US Surface Transportation Board (STB) is currently reviewing a proposed rail merger between Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern. As the STB reviews this possible merger, I request that they place health and safety as their number one goal when making the final determination to approve or reject the merger.

If the increase in number or length of trains is a result of the CP/KCS merger as reported, there seems to be a direct correlation to decreased health and safety. Please take this into consideration when making the final decision on the merger.

Sincerely,

Jeremy J. Hansen
Fire Chief