



Aug. 5, 2022

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Comments on Docket No. FD 365000, Proposed Merger of Kansas City Southern and Canadian Pacific Railway

This letter is to express our concerns regarding the proposed merger of Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern (CP and KCS respectively) railroads. As proposed, this merger would result in negative and potentially devastating impacts to the neighborhoods adjacent to rail facilities and Michigan's broader environment. At the [Michigan Environmental Council](#), our goal is that all of our state's residents are able to enjoy clean air and healthy communities for decades to come, and we are concerned this merger would impact that very important mission. Unless serious efforts are undertaken to mitigate the increased traffic and resulting pollution residents of our state would see, we would urge you to reject this merger.

As you are aware, based on CP-KCS's own modeling, the proposed merger would result in a significant increase in traffic through the southeast portion of Michigan. A significant portion of this area is already considered by the U.S. EPA to be a [nonattainment area](#), having low-quality air and [high pollution levels](#). The increased emissions from the [50% increase of daily train traffic](#) will only further damage the air, compounding the risk of health problems and chronic illness for community members, as well as further worsening the environment.

Detroit, one of several cities that will be adversely impacted, recently [received a failing grade from the American Lung Association](#) because of its air pollution. "[Particle pollution](#)"—which comes from power plants, diesel emissions and wood-burning devices—has worsened. The polluted air can cause [asthma, heart attacks, strokes, and even lung cancer](#). Southwest Detroit, where the merger's intermodal facility would be located, has [the most air-polluted zip code in the state](#) as well as other zip codes high in the rankings, according to the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. That is due to high semi-truck traffic making its way to and from Canada, a sprawling Marathon oil refinery, and some 150 industrial sites already releasing air pollution. Researchers found that one in 20

deaths and \$6.5 billion in economic losses and counting are caused by one particular type of air pollution, PM2.5.

Air quality in this part of the state got worse without additional merger-related train traffic going through these towns. Not only will extra trains be harmful, but the additional trucks going to and from the [Detroit Intermodal Terminal](#) will be damaging as well. The CP-KCS merger will exacerbate environmental injustice by further harming already marginalized communities. According to Canadian Pacific's own data submitted to the Surface Transportation Board, they anticipate this merger would result in an estimated [87 more trucks per day](#) moving in and out of the facility—a 62% increase—which will create traffic, accidents, and increase idling and overall diesel emissions.

Residents' health must be taken into consideration, and environmental health should be factored in as well. [Environmental justice](#) is an important priority of the Biden Administration and [US EPA](#). For too long low-income and minority communities, including areas in and around metro Detroit, have been congested and polluted at the benefit of wealthier areas. The areas that are most heavily impacted by this merger also coincide with the neighborhoods that are already traffic-dense and trend towards lower socioeconomic status. More traffic undoubtedly brings more emissions, leading to even higher air pollution for these historically underprivileged communities. Running unwanted trains through Detroit just adds to the [environmental injustice](#) for the city, and we cannot let it continue with the merger of CP and KCS.

We must ensure this merger does not result in worse pollution, environmental devastation, and subsequently poor health outcomes. This merger cannot come at the expense of the environment. We encourage you, as the federal regulator with oversight of this transaction, to be forward thinkers and consider the impact this merger will have on air quality and communities in five years, 10 years, and even 50 years. The Canadian Pacific-Kansas City Southern merger might have nearsighted, macro-level positive benefits, but in the long-term, it would devastate our air quality and overall environment on the local level. We would encourage you, for the sake of the millions of people that living along the impacted rail lines—both in Michigan, and throughout the Midwest to the Mexican border—to conduct a thorough and rigorous review of the environmental and health impacts of this transaction and to hold public hearings on the ground in these areas so that you can hear first-hand from those who will be directly impacted by this \$30 billion mega-merger. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael K. Dorsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underlining the last name.

Dr. Michael Dorsey, Vice Chair
Michigan Environmental Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Conan". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Conan Smith, President & CEO
Michigan Environmental Council

CC: Michigan Congressional Delegation
CC: Governor Gretchen Whitmer