

September 18, 2022

EI-32347

Mr. Martin Oberman, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

REGARDING DOCKET NO. FD36500

Dear Mr. Oberman

I am a resident of Camanche, Iowa, one of the communities that will be being severely impacted by the potential merger of the Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern rail companies. This community was established in the 1830's. It became one of the largest communities in the region. In 1860 a tornado destroyed parts the city, also killing many. The town rebuilt but never became that large city again. We have a population of 4570 persons. I have lived here 55 years.

I attended the September 13th hearing in Davenport, Iowa. I understand that you were in attendance. Many thanks to you and the other board members in attendance for giving the residents of this region an opportunity to share of the impact of this merger. We were fortunate to have a similar opportunity to express our concerns at our local city council meeting a couple of weeks earlier.

This merger decision is critical to us. It affects our quality of life. Perhaps that is not as significant of mega bucks which the rail quotes as their reason for the merger. To us, it is.

A portion of Camanche is sliced off by the rails. The Mississippi River borders the other side of this portion of Camanche. Approximately 1200 persons live in this area – that is 409 residences. When the rail crossings are blocked by a train, there is no way for emergency vehicles to access or leave. There is no way for persons to go to businesses, school, work, library, churches, marina, boat docks, etc. There is no way to enter or leave.

We understand the merger will result in more and longer trains. The impact of noise, vibrations, possible derailments, lowering of property values, as well as the above-mentioned inaccessibility are deep concerns. We and the many others of this eastern Iowa region have worked hard to be good citizens of our communities. We are blessed to have this lovely river to showcase and have actively done so. We value our region and the citizens who live here.

Canadian Pacific has shown to us that they do not regard any of this as important. Their proposal was to close 2 of our seven crossing and pay the city \$200,000. There seems to be a high level of arrogance from CP regarding this region and this city. **It's a small town. It doesn't matter. Camanche can figure it out for themselves.** Even though Canadian Pacific has created the problem. It is time they sincerely work to help our community if this merger is to occur.

Our preference is to not have this merger occur and impact our communities along the Mississippi River in such harmful ways. Thank you.

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