



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 16, 2022

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

For electronic submission at www.sbt.gov

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

Dear Chairman Oberman,

We write in support of Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis, who represents 1.1 million residents living within the City of Houston and unincorporated Harris County communities.

Commissioner Ellis has submitted several letters to the Surface Board of Transportation regarding the proposed merger of Kansas City Southern and Canadian Pacific railroads. The letters voice his and his constituents' concerns regarding the merger's impact on local air quality, traffic flows, and emergency response.

In his letter dated December 7, 2021, Commissioner Ellis submitted recommendations to mitigate the merger's health, safety, and traffic impacts. As of the time of the submission of this letter, Commissioner Ellis's office has not been contacted by Kansas City Southern or Canadian Pacific representatives to discuss how to mitigate the increased risk to Harris County residents.

Residents of Harris County – both 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 – deserve a Houston-based public meeting that is near and accessible to the communities that will be most affected by the merger.

As Commissioner Ellis stated in his letter submitted to the STB on June 23, 2022:

“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 a local public hearing on the impacts of the proposed merger.”

We fully agree with the commissioner's cautionary assessment and support his call for greater responsiveness, transparency, and direct engagement with Harris County residents and with him as their representative. The recent extension of the comment period from September 26 to October 14 offers the Board nearly three additional weeks to seek input on the draft EIS from the millions in Harris County who will be impacted by the merger.

We urge the Board to use this extension wisely and schedule an in-person public hearing in Houston. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ron Reynolds
Texas State Representative
House District 27



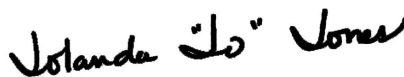
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Texas State Representative
House District 131



Harold Dutton
Texas State Representative
House District 142



Jarvis Johnson
Texas State Representative
House District 139



Jolanda Jones
Texas State Representative
House District 147



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