

United States Surface Transportation Board

EI-32550

395 East Street, SW

Washington, DC 20423

FD 36500: Merger Canadian Pacific/Kansas City Southern Rail Roads

To Whom It May Concern:

I am lifelong resident of Beaumont, TX, and a proud retired fire fighter.

My purpose in writing is to object strongly to the proposed merger between Kansas City Southern and the Canadian Pacific railroads. On a personal basis, this is about quality of life. From the articles that I have seen the merger will dramatically increase the rail traffic of trains carrying Canadian oil to Houston and points south. These additional trains will bring increased noise, pollution, and adverse environmental impacts.

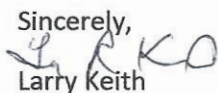
Train derailments pose a tremendous threat to communities and first responders. The catastrophic derailment in Lac Megantic, Quebec killed forty-seven people and leveled the town. Other examples of derailments abound including one in 2015 on Old Katy Road in Houston. I am fearful of Beaumont being placed in harm's way.

The other issue involves both convenience and life safety for the residents and visitors to Beaumont. These trains may exceed two miles in length. The amount of time these train will take to traverse an at-grade crossing will be substantial. For an average citizen, it would be an annoyance. For someone waiting for a medic unit or police officer, the delay may be deadly.

In talking to some of my former fire service colleagues, I understand that there is concern that the increased rail traffic will cause significant back-ups at the Neches River Bridge. The congestion creates greater opportunity for mishaps and accidents.

The merger would be bad for Beaumont. I appreciate the opportunity to offer my opinion.

Sincerely,


Larry Keith