



EI-32553

Minnesota Professional Fire Fighters

8100 Wayzata Boulevard

St Louis Park, MN 55426

United States Surface Transportation Board

395 East Street, SW

Washington, DC 20423

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

To Whom It May Concern:

The Minnesota Professional Fire Fighters Association has grave concerns about the proposed merger between the Canadian Pacific Railroad and Kansas City Southern. Our association recognizes and appreciates that Canadian Pacific has had its United States headquarters in Minneapolis for generations.

This merger is about transporting Canadian petroleum from Chicago to the gulf coast, in large measure, because of the demise of pipelines in the United States. The methods of conveying Canadian oil are not the concern of Minnesota fire fighters except where it intersects with public safety.

If approved, the merger will join two end-to-end railroads. Canadian oil will be ferried through Minnesota. The trains will go through small rural communities to the Twin City and travel southeast to Chicago and points south.

Our concern is both the increase in rail traffic with estimates of approximately 14 new trains daily. These trains will average approximately two miles in length. The increased number of trains increases risk proportionally. We are mindful of the train derailment and fire in Quebec which claimed 47 lives in .

Because of their length, these mega-trains will cause delays as they pass in-grade crossings in small towns throughout Minnesota. A two-mile long train may take greater than thirty minutes to clear a crossing causing delays for emergency responders which will compromise response times and endanger the public.

We are also mindful that the rail roads are slow to report spills and minor derailments. In July of 2021, St. Paul City Council member called out Canadian Pacific for failing to disclose a potentially environmentally damaging oil spill at their rail yard.

Our organization urges the Surface Transportation Board to err on the side of public safety and reject this merger.

Respectfully,

Scott Vadnais

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President