

**MISSOURI STATE COUNCIL OF FIRE FIGHTERS****6320 Manchester Avenue, Suite 42A****Kansas City, MO 64133****Telephone 816-783-5446*****WWW.MSCFF.ORG***

10.12.2022

United States Surface Transportation Board

395 East Street, SW

Washington, DC 20423

FD 36500: Proposed Merger Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern Rail Roads

To Whom It May Concern:

The Missouri Council of Fire Fighters has serious concerns about the proposed mergers between Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern Rail Roads.

Our opposition is routed in one issue: public safety. The economics, quality of life issues and environmental impacts of this proposal are for others to argue. As an organization dedicated to public safety our sole concern is the protection of lives and property.

There are two fundamental issues which directly impact communities and the safety of our members and the citizens we proudly serve. The most crucial is the threat of derailment and catastrophic spillage and fire. The tragic 2013 derailment and fire which killed 47 people in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, and the derailment in Weyauwega, WI, which caused over 3,000 people to be evacuated from their homes for several weeks, serve as graphic examples.

The second concern of our organization has to do with the increasing number and size of these trains. Certain estimates suggest that there will be several dozen additional trains traversing the rails from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico on a daily basis. Canadian Pacific routinely operates trains that are 1.7 to 2.3 miles in length. As trains of this size pass through small communities, the time it takes to pass an at-grade rail crossing can exceed thirty minutes. In the event of a fire, medical emergency or other response, delays of this duration can prove deadly.

Whether or not the merger is approved, there needs to be much greater interaction between the public safety community and the proponents of this project.

Our association, which represents over 6,000 professional fire fighters in communities throughout the state of Missouri, urges the Surface Transportation Board to base its decision on the protection of our communities and citizens as it evaluates this merger.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Demetris Alfred". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D".

Demetris Alfred

President