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David M. Toolan
Vice President & General Counsel

February 26, 2024

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VIA E-FILING

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
February 26, 2024
Part of
Public Record

Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Proceedings
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

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Re: STB Docket No. FD 32760 (Sub-No. 49)
Union Pacific Corporation—Control & Merger—Southern Pacific Rail Corporation

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing on behalf of CRH Americas, Inc. (“CRHA”) to express CRHA’s support for the petition filed by BNSF in the above-referenced proceeding on February 8, 2024. CRHA is the North American arm of CRH plc.

As the result of acquiring the Ash Grove Cement Company in 2018, CRHA became one of the largest suppliers of aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete products, construction services, fencing, landscaping products, precast concrete structures, and ready-mix concrete to construction projects in the United States. CRHA has operations in 48 US states and employs over 30,000 employees in the United States and Canada.

Granting BNSF’s petition will ensure that two carriers – UP and BNSF – will compete for the transportation by rail of crushed stone and aggregate from Granite Mountain Quarries in Little Rock, AR (“GMQ”). CRHA’s subsidiary regularly purchases crushed stone from GMQ and relies on railroads to move that commodity. I understand that UP and SP each had access to GMQ prior to the UP/SP merger, and that the merger therefore eliminated a competitive option.

CRHA has seen first-hand how competition between transportation service providers can result in better rates and service. Multiple rail carrier options help to ensure access to a strong, efficient supply chain that allows us to meet our needs and grow our business. In this case, UP and SP agreed to allow BNSF to replace the competition that was lost as a result of the UP/SP merger. UP’s refusal to now allow BNSF to serve GMQ places CRHA and its subsidiaries at an economic disadvantage.

CRHA respectfully requests that the Board expeditiously grant BNSF's petition and permit BNSF to provide competitive rail service to GMQ, replacing the competition that was lost in the UP/SP merger. Thanks for your assistance and please contact me if you need any additional information.

Respectfully,

/s/ David M. Toolan

David M. Toolan
Vice President & General Counsel

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 26th day of February 2024, I have caused the letter to be served electronically or by first-class mail, postage pre-paid, on all parties of record in this proceeding.

Respectfully,

/s/ David M. Toolan

David M. Toolan
Vice President & General Counsel