



ARKANSAS TRAVELERS YOUTH FOUNDATION 310088

9/16/2025

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
September 19, 2025
Part of
Public Record

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Subject: Support for Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern Merger, Docket Number: FD 36873

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

Union Pacific has played a direct and positive role in the North Little Rock and Central Arkansas community by providing grants that have greatly benefited hundreds of youth athletes and their families. The company's commitment extends beyond its rail services, weaving itself deeply within the community's fabric.

Union Pacific is more than just a transportation provider; it is an enduring part of our local heritage. For generations, Union Pacific has offered employment, fueled economic growth, and provided opportunities for adventure to countless young Americans. I cherish the vivid memories of trips on the Texas Eagle with my grandparents to San Antonio and see the same wonder in my daughters eyes every Christmas we ride the "Polar Express". Events like the arrival of the 4014 Big Boy locomotive in North Little Rock, which drew large crowds even in adverse weather, highlight the community's enduring affection for trains and underscore their continued significance in American life.

As a stakeholder in Central Arkansas, I advocate strongly for the Surface Transportation Board to approve the Union Pacific–Norfolk Southern merger. Reliable rail service is vital for the prosperity of our local economy, businesses, and residents. This merger presents an opportunity to strengthen regional connections and deliver lasting benefits.

The merger is expected to result in faster, more reliable rail service, reduced congestion, and increased market access for local businesses. It also promises ongoing investment in rail infrastructure, which will enhance safety, generate new jobs, and help ensure America's competitiveness in an evolving global economy.

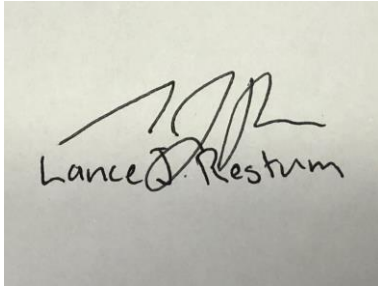
On behalf of the Arkansas Travelers Youth Foundation and the broader community, I respectfully urge the Surface Transportation Board to approve this merger. By doing so, we can seize the advantages, investments, and opportunities it promises—further connecting our communities regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Sincerely,
Lance Restum
Executive Director
Arkansas Travelers Youth Foundation

cc: Member Schultz
Member Hedlund

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 19 day of September, 2025, a copy of the foregoing Letter was served on all parties of record on the official service list for Docket FD 36873

A photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored piece of paper. The signature is stylized and appears to read "Lance Restum".

Lance Restum
Executive Director
Arkansas Travelers Youth Foundation