

CAPITOL OFFICE
State Capitol
201 West Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806
Tele: (573) 751-3613
E-Mail:
louis.riggs@house.mo.gov



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Development

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Louis Riggs
State Representative
District 5

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ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
November 13, 2025
Part of
Public Record

October 29, 2025

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

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

As the State Representative for Missouri's District 5 – which includes the city of Hannibal and surrounding communities along the Mississippi River – I write to express my strong support for the proposed merger between Union Pacific (UP) and Norfolk Southern (NS). This partnership represents a valuable opportunity to strengthen economic activity in Missouri and across the nation.

Hannibal is a river town where rail, truck, and barge traffic converge to move goods efficiently along the Mississippi. Our city has a proud and historic connection to the railroad. Early industries such as pork packing, soap and candle making, and lumber milling all relied on rail service to transport raw materials and finished products. That long-standing relationship with the railroad helped shape Hannibal into the vibrant community it is today. Now, we stand at another turning point – one where a modern, integrated rail system can once again fuel growth and opportunity for generations to come.

A streamlined railroad system would mean faster, more efficient movement of goods across ports and facilities nationwide. By reducing delays, eliminating unnecessary hand-offs, and lowering transportation costs, this merger would create a more competitive and integrated system that benefits businesses and consumers alike.

Beyond supply chain improvements, shifting more freight to rail would relieve pressure on our local infrastructure. Many neighborhoods in my district are driven on by heavy truck traffic, which takes a toll on our streets and poses safety concerns for residents. Expanding rail capacity through this transcontinental merger would reduce the number of long-haul trucks on local roads – resulting in less wear and tear, safer streets for families, and cleaner air for our communities, all while keeping commerce moving efficiently.

The UP-NS merger represents a generational investment in America's economic future. For towns like Hannibal, it means more jobs, improved infrastructure, and expanded opportunities for growth. I urge the Surface Transportation Board to approve this merger and allow communities across the nation to realize its far-reaching benefits.

Sincerely,
Representative Louis Riggs
Hannibal, MO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "L. Riggs", written over a horizontal line.