

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
November 13, 2025
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Public Record

October 15, 2025

Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Chief Counsel
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423



Re: Proposed UP-NS Merger, Docket No. FD 36873

To Whom It May Concern:

As Mayor of Greenville, I want to emphasize just how critical a reliable, competitive freight rail system is to the success of communities like ours in Western Ohio. Freight rail sustains local employers, supports manufacturing and agriculture, and connects small towns like Greenville to national markets that keep our economy strong.

The proposed merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern—two of the nation's largest rail carriers—raises serious concerns about the potential for reduced competition and diminished service reliability. Experience shows that when competition declines, it can result in slower service, supply chain congestion, and higher transportation costs. Those costs do not remain confined to the rail industry; they ultimately reach our residents through higher prices on essential goods and services.

Here in Greenville, we take pride in being a community that attracts investment and supports small business growth. A balanced, competitive rail network is essential to preserving that momentum. Any consolidation that limits options for shippers or weakens service quality would have tangible effects on our region's economic health and long-term stability.

I respectfully urge the Surface Transportation Board to carefully evaluate this proposed merger to ensure that it does not harm communities like ours. Safeguards that preserve competition, service quality, and safety are vital to protecting local economies throughout Ohio and across the Midwest.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to fair, transparent review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Jeff Whitaker', is written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Whitaker
Mayor, City of Greenville, Ohio

Cc: Parties of Record
United States Department of Justice