

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

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

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

Dear Office of Chief Counsel,

As a resident of Walker, LA for 20 years, I care deeply about protecting our community's access to affordable goods. Freight rail plays a significant role in Walker, LA's economy – keeping store shelves stocked, importing nationwide goods, creating jobs, and helping families get what they need at a fair price.

Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern, two of the nation's largest railroads, announced a potential merger. If approved without appropriate protections for competition, such a merger would be risky. Often, mergers result in reduced competition in freight rail that drives higher costs, and history shows these expenses don't stop at the rail yard. Instead, they trickle down to hardworking families in the form of higher prices on groceries and everyday goods.

We need to protect consumers and prevent rail industry consolidation from leading to higher costs and weaker service. When Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern officially file, I hope that the Surface Transportation Board ensures the tenets of the merger and conditions imposed on the transaction meet the standards for enhancing competition and safety.

As you evaluate this merger, please keep the interests of everyday Louisiana residents in mind. A competitive freight rail system is critical not just for businesses, but for the families and communities that depend on it. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sierra Schmidit

Cc: Parties of Record
Governor of Louisiana
Members of Congress of Louisiana