

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

310259
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,

My family has been farming in Texas for generations and now living in Louisiana, I hope to start my own ranch one day. My family business relies heavily on freight rail to move essential goods to bring our livestock and beef to market and ensure we can compete globally.

When rail service falters — whether through higher rates, reduced options, or poorly executed mergers— it creates ripple effects across the entire supply chain. These changes can be the difference between a profitable season or closing the doors on a farm that has sustained the community for generations through high quality made in the USA beef.

Recently two of the largest railroads in the United States, Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern, announced their intent to merge. I am concerned about the impact this merger will have on competition. As you may know, competition is the driver of our economic system. The freight rail industry is already dominated by a small number of players. If this merger is approved, the two companies would create a near duopoly, further reducing competition and leaving farmers with fewer options and higher costs at a time when margins are already razor thin and railroad companies are already hard to find.

I ask that you keep farmers and ranchers in mind when these companies formally file. Agriculture needs a competitive rail system to survive, and we cannot afford changes that would weaken that system further.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trey Santos', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Trey Santos
Local Rancher

Cc: Parties of Record
United States Department of Justice
United States Department of Agriculture,