

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 someone who spent decades in the automotive industry, I understand how vital an efficient, competitive freight rail system is to keeping supply chains running and consumer costs in check. Reliable rail service doesn't just move parts and finished vehicles—it's the backbone of getting everyday goods to shelves and homes across Missouri.

That's why I'm concerned about the potential merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern. If approved without strong conditions, this consolidation could significantly reduce competition in the freight rail market. Based on my experience, when shipping options shrink, costs inevitably rise—and those increases don't stop with manufacturers or retailers. They end up hitting consumers hardest, from higher prices at the grocery store to inflated costs for everyday essentials.

This kind of rail industry consolidation has long-term implications. It can disrupt the delicate balance of logistics that industries like auto manufacturing depend on, while also putting added strain on household budgets.

I urge the Surface Transportation Board to thoroughly examine the consequences of this merger and ensure that any approval comes with enforceable safeguards that prioritize fair pricing, strong service, and open competition.

Please consider what's at stake for working families across Missouri, and for industries like the automotive sector that rely on a robust freight network. This decision must reflect the interests of both the economy and the people who drive it.

Sincerely,



Edward Jelinek

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