

October 8, 2025

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

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

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

Dear Office of Chief Counsel,

As a stay-at-home mom in rural Ohio, raising four kids on a tight budget, I feel firsthand how critical reliable, affordable freight rail is for families like mine. It's not something we think about every day, but rail is what keeps our grocery store shelves stocked, the prices of basics within reach, and the small businesses in our community connected to larger markets.

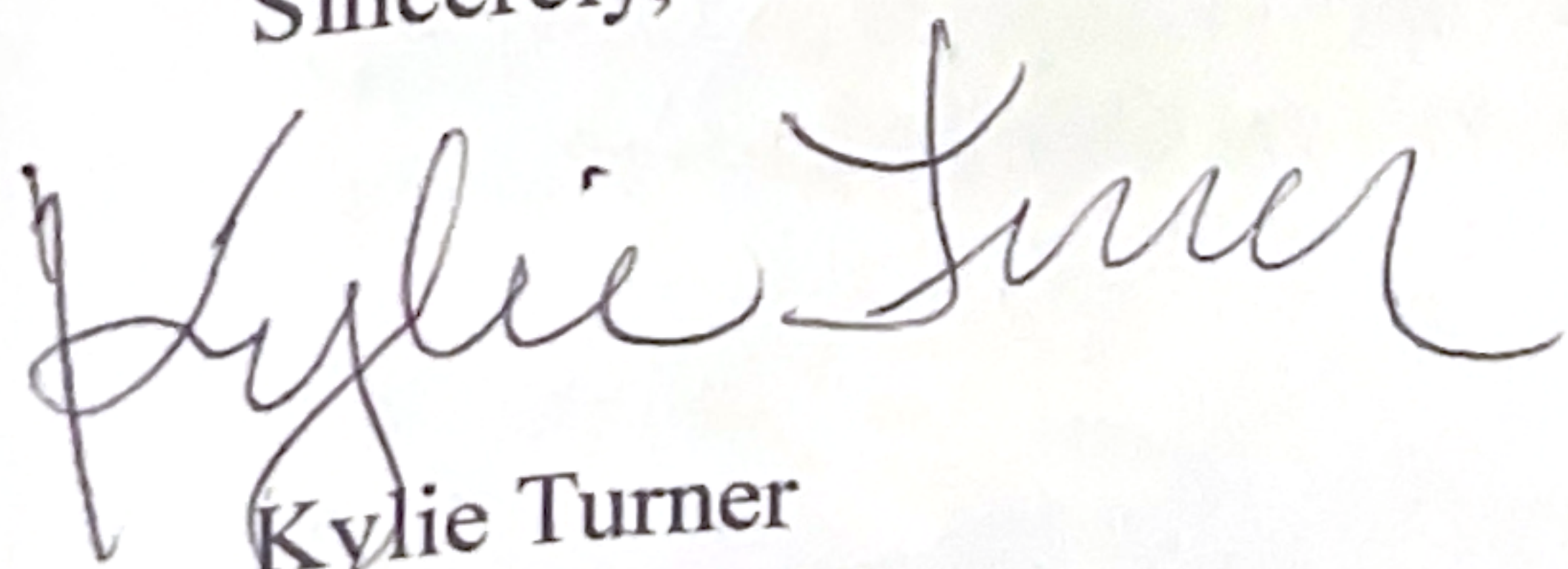
When rail competition is reduced, families like mine feel it almost immediately. Higher shipping costs don't stop at the rail yard—they show up in more expensive groceries, higher prices on diapers and school supplies, and fewer options at the store. For moms, that means harder choices at the checkout line and more stress about how to stretch each paycheck.

Now, with Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern—the two biggest railroads in the country—pursuing a merger, the risks to families in places like ours are even greater. Without strong protections, this merger could leave us with fewer choices, higher costs, and less dependable service. Those burdens always fall hardest on working families and parents doing their best to provide.

That's why I urge the Surface Transportation Board, once this merger is formally filed, to put families first. Protecting competition in freight rail isn't just a matter of business—it's about making sure everyday families in rural Ohio can afford groceries, school supplies, and the essentials of life.

Thank you for keeping families like mine in mind as you consider this decision.

Sincerely,



Kylie Turner
Versailles, Ohio

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