

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
November 13, 2025
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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,

My name is Zach Bevins, and I own Bevins Renovations, a renovation company serving both residential and commercial clients throughout the St. Louis area. I'm writing today to voice my concerns about the proposed merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern.

Like many small businesses, mine depends on consistent and timely rail service to receive the materials we use on job sites and to keep our operations running smoothly. When large rail carriers merge, it often results in slower service, limited shipping options, and increased congestion — all of which negatively impact small businesses like mine that don't have the leverage or resources to absorb those disruptions.

If this merger goes through, Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern would control a significant share of the freight rail market — effectively creating a near duopoly. That kind of market dominance stifles competition and often leads to rising transportation costs. When those costs climb, they're eventually passed down to the customer, making essential goods and services more expensive for everyone.

Over the years, I've seen how important competition is to keeping prices fair and service reliable. A strong, competitive rail network supports not just businesses, but also workers, customers, and local economies. I urge the Board to carefully evaluate how this merger would impact small businesses and communities across the country — and to ensure that any consolidation promotes, rather than undermines, fair competition and operational reliability.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Zach Bevins

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