

ENTERED  
Office of Chief Counsel  
November 13, 2025  
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Public Record



October 13, 2025

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 fifth generation farm, we rely heavily on freight rail to move essential goods to bring our crops 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.

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. 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.

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 blue ink, appearing to read "Gregory J McGlinch", is written over the typed name.

Dr. Gregory J McGlinch  
President

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