

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
November 13, 2025
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Public Record

October 15, 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

To Whom it May Concern:

The freight rail system is vital to the economy here in Western Ohio. It sustains businesses, creates jobs, and connects our small community to different markets across the country.

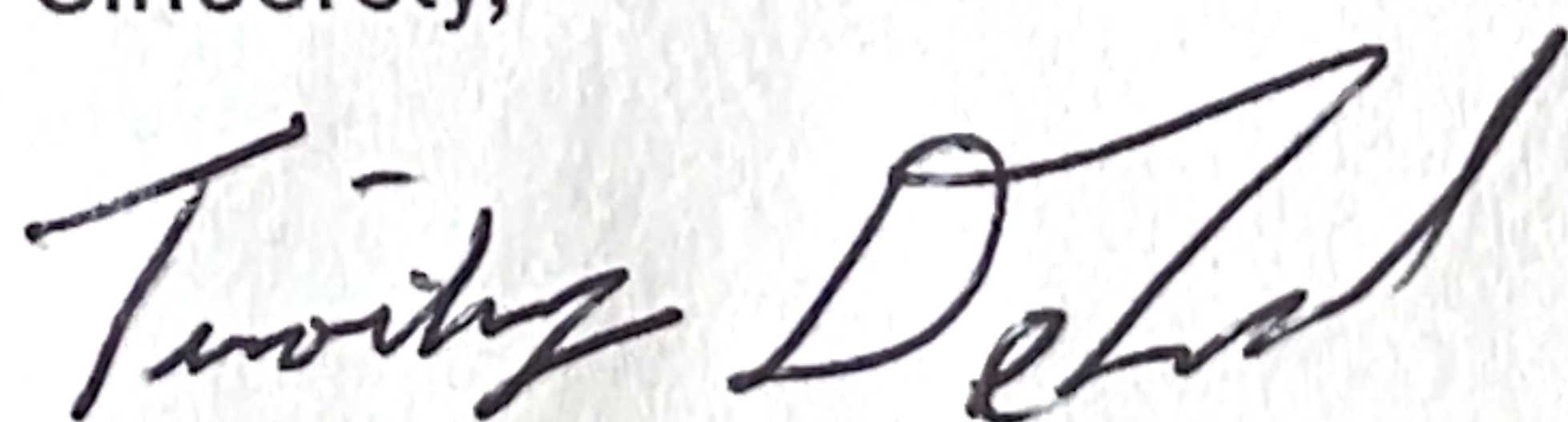
Recently, Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern, two of the largest railroads in the United States, announced their intent to merge—a deal that would reduce competition across the freight rail industry and present challenges to regional economies. Consolidating services under a single supplier can lead to congestion and supply chain disruptions, causing ripple effects across communities that result in slower service for manufacturers, small businesses, and residents alike.

Overreliance on one supplier can also drive increased costs that trickle down to local businesses and families in the form of higher prices on services and goods. Our constituents, businesses and partners have come to expect stability and opportunity in our economy, and it's a reputation we want to protect and uphold.

As a councilman for eight years, I have seen how competitive freight rail upholds our community's vitality. When Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern formally file, I hope the Surface Transportation Board ensures that the tenets of the merger meet the standards for enhancing competition and safety, and that changes to the rail system do not come at the expense of regional economies.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Tim DeLand
Village of North Star

Cc: Parties of Record
United States Department of Justice