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

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 a resident of Walker, LA for 25 years, I care deeply about protecting our community's access to affordable goods. Freight rail plays a significant role in Walker, LA's economy by importing nationwide goods, creating jobs, and helping families get what they need at a decent price. The rail industry particularly is important to my business as a steel and aluminum welder. We build, assemble, and ship steel goods for the entire south and the railroad is arguably our most important form of transportation.

Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern, two of the nation's largest railroads, announced a potential merger. If approved without appropriate protections for competition, such a merger would be risky. Mergers are known to result in reduced competition in freight rail that drives higher costs, and these expenses don't stop at the rail yard.

We need to protect consumers and prevent rail industry consolidation from leading to higher costs and weaker service. When Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern officially file, I hope that the Surface Transportation Board certifies that the tenets of the merger and conditions imposed on the transaction meet the standards for enhancing competition in the market which is essential to a capitalist society.

As you look at this merger, please keep the interests of everyday Louisiana residents in mind, especially those from one-stoplight towns like mine. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LU' or 'Lance Urbach', written in a cursive style.

Lance Urbach

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