

October 4, 2025

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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,

I work with businesses all day, every day in my professional career, and I see just how much they—and our families—depend on reliable, affordable freight rail. As a longtime resident of Greenville, Ohio, I also understand what it means for our community. Rail is a lifeline: it keeps store shelves stocked, supports local jobs, and ensures families can access the goods they need at fair prices.

When competition in the rail industry is reduced, the effects ripple outward. History shows that consolidation often leads to slower service, higher shipping costs, and fewer options. Those costs don't remain with the railroads—they trickle down to businesses and eventually land on families in the form of higher grocery bills and more expensive essentials.

Now Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern—two of the largest railroads in the nation—are pursuing a merger. Without strong safeguards, this merger risks creating even greater concentration of power in an industry already dominated by a few players. For communities like Greenville, that could mean fewer choices, more costs for small businesses, and additional strain on working families.

I urge the Surface Transportation Board, when this merger is officially filed, to keep the needs of communities like ours at the forefront. Protecting competition and safety in the rail industry is not only critical for business—it is essential for the well-being and stability of families across Ohio.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,



Rachel Neal

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