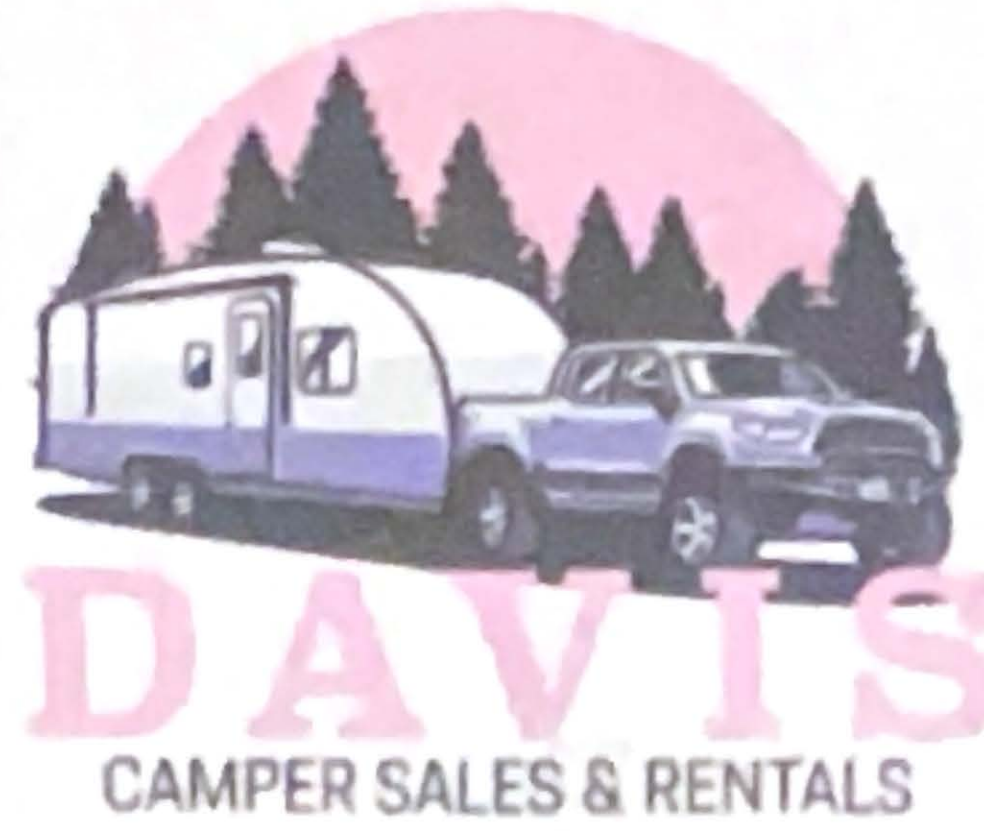




310392

October 2, 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

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
November 13, 2025
Part of
Public Record

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Kent Davis, and I own Davis Camper Sales in North Star, Ohio. We sell and service recreational travel trailers, and, as a largely season business, are particularly sensitive to any disruption with our manufacturers.

I recently heard about the plans for two of the nation's largest railroads—Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern—to merge. For businesses like mine, reliable rail service is not optional; it's the backbone of how we receive critical supplies and deliver finished products to customers.

As a small business owner with more than 50 years of experience, I've witnessed firsthand the consequences of large railroad consolidations. When mergers are poorly executed, service slows, congestion worsens, and the supply chain suffers. In the end, it is often the small, family-run businesses that bear the brunt of these disruptions.

If this merger is approved, Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern would effectively create a near-duopoly. That lack of competition will hurt everyone. Less competition in rail service has historically meant higher shipping costs, and when businesses cannot absorb those costs, they inevitably get passed down to consumers—forcing families to pay more for the goods and essentials they rely on.

Competition is what ensures affordability, efficiency, and long-term stability. The strength of businesses, workers, and communities across Ohio depends on a fair and competitive rail system. When Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern formally file their proposal, I urge the Surface Transportation Board to carefully weigh its impact on local businesses and ensure that any merger fully meets the standards for promoting competition and safety.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Kent Davis

Kent Davis
Davis Camper Sales

Cc: Parties of Record, Small Business Administration, and United States Department of Justice