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October 2, 2025

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,

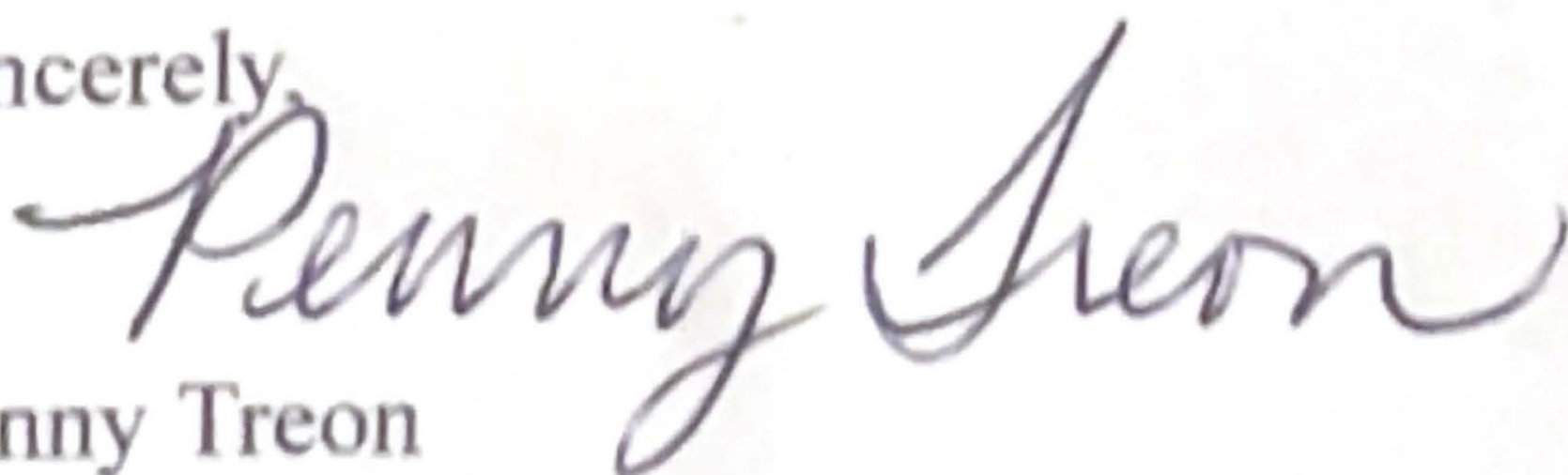
As a longtime resident of Versailles, Ohio and someone who has worked in small business for most of my life, I care deeply about protecting our community's access to affordable goods. Freight rail is a lifeline for towns like ours—it keeps store shelves stocked, supports jobs, and ensures families can get what they need at a fair price.

Now Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern, two of the nation's largest railroads, are considering a merger. Without strong protections, this merger could reduce competition, which history shows often leads to slower service and higher shipping costs. And those added costs don't stay with the railroads—they trickle down to families in the form of higher prices for groceries and everyday essentials.

We need to make sure consumers are protected and that rail industry consolidation does not come at the expense of small businesses or working families. When Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern officially file, I urge the Surface Transportation Board to carefully consider the impact on communities like Versailles and ensure that any conditions placed on this merger truly safeguard competition and safety.

A competitive freight rail system is not just about business—it's about the strength and well-being of families and communities across Ohio. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Penny Treon

Cc: Parties of Record
Governor of Ohio