

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,

My name is Josh Johnson, and I farm row crops in Montgomery City, Missouri. Missouri farmers and agricultural producers depended on freight rail to move grain efficiently from our fields to domestic and international markets. It's a vital part of our operation and of rural America's connection to the global economy.

I'm writing to express concerns about the proposed merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern. The rail industry has already seen major consolidation over the years, and if this deal goes forward, it would shrink competition even more—leaving Missouri farmers with limited options and likely higher freight rates.

When transportation becomes more expensive or unreliable, the impact on agriculture is immediate and significant. These kinds of changes don't just affect big companies; they put pressure on independent farmers, strain rural economies, and can lead to long-term damage for communities that rely on farming.

I respectfully ask that you weigh the needs of farmers as you review this proposed merger. Farmers need access to a strong, competitive rail network to stay viable. Fewer carriers mean fewer choices and higher costs—and that's not a burden we can afford to carry. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Josh Johnson

Cc: Parties of Record
Governor of Missouri
Missouri Congressional Delegation