

October 8, 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

Dear Office of Chief Counsel,

As someone who spent a lifetime in manufacturing before retiring, I know firsthand how much our businesses and families depend on reliable, affordable freight rail. In Greenville, Ohio, rail has always been more than just a line on a map—it's the backbone of local commerce. It kept raw materials moving into our plants, finished goods moving out to customers, and ensured our community stayed connected to larger markets. Without it, jobs would have been harder to sustain and store shelves harder to keep full.

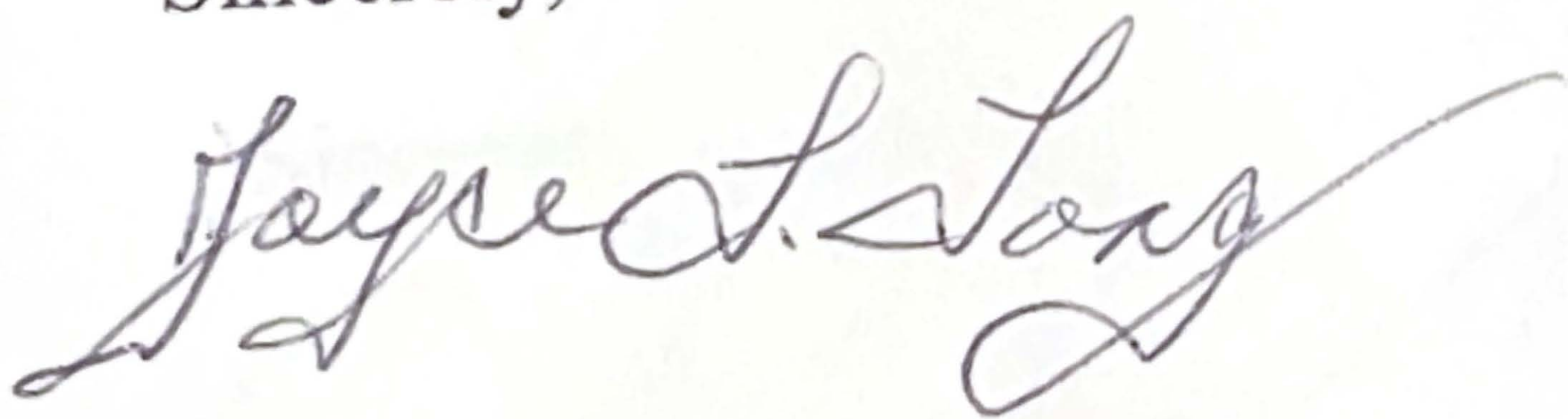
Through the years, I saw what happens when competition in the rail industry is diminished. Reduced competition usually means slower service, higher shipping costs, and fewer options for businesses. Those costs never stop at the factory gate—they trickle down, raising prices for everyday families in the form of more expensive groceries and essentials.

Now, with Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern—the two largest railroads in the country—pursuing a merger, the stakes are even higher. Without meaningful safeguards, this merger risks concentrating too much power in too few hands, leaving communities like Greenville with fewer choices, higher costs, and unnecessary strain on working families and small businesses alike.

I urge the Surface Transportation Board, once this merger is formally filed, to take the long view. Protecting competition and ensuring safe, reliable rail service isn't just good business—it's vital to the well-being of families and the strength of local economies across Ohio.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,



Joyce Long
Greenville, Ohio

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

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Office of Chief Counsel
November 13, 2025
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Public Record