

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

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,

I'm writing as a lifelong Missourian who is concerned about the proposed merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern. While this may look like a business decision on paper, its real-world consequences could be felt in every corner of Missouri, from family dinner tables to farm fields to factory floors.

Manufacturers and agricultural producers depend on freight rail to ship materials and products. Communities count on it to keep store shelves stocked with affordable goods. When freight rail works well, it supports jobs, stabilizes prices, and keeps supply chains moving. But when competition shrinks, the cracks quickly begin to show.

Mergers like this one often reduce options for shippers, leading to higher transportation costs that ripple through the entire economy. In the end, those costs fall on consumers leading to higher prices on everything from groceries to energy bills. With inflation already squeezing Missouri families, the last thing we need is a spike in shipping costs passed on at the checkout line or the gas pump.

Before any merger is allowed to move forward, the Surface Transportation Board should look at the broader consequences. This isn't just about rail lines—it's about protecting competition, ensuring service reliability, and keeping goods affordable for working families.

Sincerely,



David Renard

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