

PAUL L. EVANS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 20



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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

October 7th, 2025

Surface Transportation Board
The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs, Chairman
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Support for the Proposed Union Pacific–Norfolk Southern Merger

Dear Members of the Surface Transportation Board:

As a State Representative for Oregon House District 20, I write to express my strong support for the proposed merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern. Rail service is an essential element of a resilient national economy. It underpins supply chain reliability, supports business operations and employment, and enables access to both domestic and international markets.

The proposed merger represents a significant opportunity to modernize and strengthen the nation's rail network. By combining operational expertise and infrastructure, this partnership is poised to improve service reliability, reduce network congestion, and expand market access. These outcomes align with national priorities for economic growth, transportation efficiency, and environmental responsibility.

I believe this action will generate meaningful benefits for Oregon's economy and the communities I represent, including Independence, Monmouth, and South and West Salem. Enhanced rail performance will support local industries, create and sustain jobs, and help ensure that Oregon's goods reach broader markets with greater speed and dependability.

Freight rail continues to serve as the most energy-efficient mode of freight transportation, offering measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions compared with other surface transport options. By increasing system efficiency and investment, this merger stands to further those environmental gains while reinforcing the safety and competitiveness of the national rail system.

On behalf of the constituents of House District 20, I respectfully urge the Board to approve the Union Pacific–Norfolk Southern merger in a timely manner. This action would affirm a forward-looking vision for U.S. transportation infrastructure and provide enduring economic, environmental, and operational benefits.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact my office should additional information be of assistance to your review.

Respectfully,

Representative Paul Evans
Oregon House of Representatives
House District 20