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COMMITTEES

Nebraska State Legislature

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**Chairperson – Government, Military and
Veterans Affairs
Education
Committee on Committees**

Hon. Patrick J. Fuchs, Chair
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Support for Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern merger

October 1, 2025

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

I represent the people of Nebraska's 45th Legislative District in our state legislature. I am writing to you to express my wholehearted support for the merger that has been proposed between the Union Pacific Railroad and the Norfolk Southern Railway.

As an agricultural state, Nebraska has long relied on reliable, efficient transportation to bring our best-of-market goods and produce to market across the United States and the world. Because of the critical role that transportation plays in our economy, it is natural that we should also be home to some of the most important companies in the transportation industry, including Crete Carrier, Werner Enterprises, and of course the Union Pacific Railroad. This means that transportation supports our larger employment market while also directly employing many Nebraskans and providing for their way of life.

Because of the important link between Nebraska and the transportation industry, I was keenly interested when I heard about the prospect of merging Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern. After hearing from constituents who strongly believe in this merger and also from others who have expressed reservations about it, it is my conclusion that this merger would benefit shipping customers, retail customers, and the many, many communities that benefit from being served by railroad routes. Better coordination between Union Pacific's extensive western routes and Norfolk Southern's routes to the east will make rail service more reliable, more efficient nationwide service. I also believe that the opportunities for infrastructure investment will make rail transportation even safer than it is today, and could open new markets for Nebraska products.

I respectfully ask that the Board give favorable consideration to the proposed merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rita Sanders".

Senator Rita Sanders