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Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Sam Graves
Chairman

Nick Christensen, Staff Director

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
December 5, 2025
Part of
Public Record
Rick Larsen
Ranking Member

Katherine W. Dedrick, Democratic Staff Director

December 05, 2025

Patrick Fuchs
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Karen Hedlund
Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Michelle Shultz
Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman Fuchs, Member Schultz, and Member Hedlund:

I urge you to consider the passenger rail implications of a potential merger between Union Pacific (UP) and Norfolk Southern (NS) when reviewing their application. A merger of these two railroads has the potential to impact passenger rail on-time performance, support for new and existing intercity passenger rail corridors, and Amtrak service due to long trains.

More than half of state-supported and long-distance Amtrak routes operate on either UP or NS track, including the Washington state-supported *Cascades* service where UP has struggled to provide on-time performance.

Thanks to investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, 69 corridors were selected for intercity passenger rail planning and development. More than half of these corridors will require coordination with UP and NS.

And lastly, long freight trains negatively impact passenger trains. When long trains block crossings on passenger rail routes, they contribute to Amtrak delays on state-supported and long-distance routes.

Chairman Fuchs, Member Hedlund, Member Schultz

December 5, 2025

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As you consider a potential merger between UP and NS on employees and the communities and customers they serve, I urge you to keep the impact on passenger rail in mind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Larsen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Larsen
Ranking Member