

Representative Nicole Miller
District 82
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Committee Member:
A&B Transportation, Chair
Appropriations & Budget
Commerce and Economic Development
Business Subcommittee

HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

State of Oklahoma

310535

October 22, 2025

ENTERED

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423
Subject: Support for Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern Merger

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



Dear Chairman Fuchs:

As chair of the Oklahoma House Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Transportation, I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern.

This merger represents a forward-looking opportunity to strengthen our region's economic foundation and enhance the competitiveness of local manufacturers. Manufacturing represents 11% of Oklahoma's Gross State Product (GDP), making it a major economic driver. Freight rail plays a central role in this success – moving the goods that power our industries, sustain our farms, and connect our local communities to markets across the country and around the globe.

Union Pacific has long been a trusted transportation partner for our state, providing efficient, reliable, and cost-effective service to businesses both large and small. By joining with Norfolk Southern, these companies would create America's first true transcontinental railroad – connecting our country coast to coast. For Oklahoma businesses, this would mean greater competitiveness, lower shipping costs, and reduced wear and tear on our roads from heavy truck traffic.

For manufacturers operating on tight margins, the logistics improvements will be game changing. Fewer rail transfers mean faster delivery times, better customer satisfaction, and dramatically lower shipping costs. What once required complex routing through multiple carriers will now be a straightforward and highly efficient process.

The benefits will extend beyond the business community to taxpayers. Heavy truck traffic has placed enormous strain on Oklahoma roads, costing residents millions in repairs and creating safety risks for families. A single freight train can carry the load of 300 trucks,



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meaning this merger could remove thousands of heavy vehicles from our highways each day while improving both safety and infrastructure longevity.

Equally important, Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern share a commitment to investing in people. Between 2020 and 2025, they have dedicated a combined \$300 million to philanthropic initiatives supporting workforce development, safety programs, and the creation of vibrant spaces where people want to live and work. These efforts mirror Oklahoma's own goals of building stronger, safer, and more vibrant communities.

As America works to rebuild its manufacturing base and reduce reliance on unstable foreign supply chains, a transcontinental railroad provides exactly the infrastructure backbone our economy needs. This merger is about more than connecting rail lines – it's about securing the future of our transportation network, driving economic development, and ensuring American freight rail remains globally competitive.

I urge the Surface Transportation Board to give full and favorable consideration to this proposal, recognizing the benefits it will bring to Oklahoma and the nation as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nicole" and last name "Miller" clearly distinguishable.

Representative Nicole Miller
Oklahoma House of Representatives
District 82

cc: Member Schultz
Member Hedlund