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Committees:
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House of Representatives
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October 14, 2025

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Subject: Comments on Proposed Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern Merger

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

As a Representative in the SC House of Representatives in Columbia SC, I recognize the important role freight rail plays in supporting our local economy, businesses and residents. Reliable rail service helps connect our region to broader markets and provides an efficient transportation option for goods.

The proposed Union Pacific–Norfolk Southern merger has the strong potential to further shape this network by offering more direct routes, expanding geographic reach and encouraging investment in infrastructure and technology. Our business community that relies on freight shipments, would benefit through strengthened service reliability, enhanced supply chain efficiency and access to new markets. And our whole community would benefit from a more efficient rail network that could decrease the number of long-haul trucks on our publicly funded highways. At the same time, it is important that these changes continue to balance efficiency with safety, sustainability and long-term community benefits.

Freight rail contributes to reduced highway congestion and emissions, making it an important part of sustainable transportation. And reducing highway congestion decreases the need for highway maintenance spending and improves quality of life for our residents. With thoughtful planning, the merger could improve service dependability, support local businesses and create opportunities for infrastructure investment and job growth.

I respectfully encourage the Surface Transportation Board to carefully consider this proposal, weighing both the opportunities it may create for communities like ours and the need to ensure fair, safe and sustainable rail service nationally and globally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon Newton".

Brandon Newtown
SC House of Representatives

cc: Member Schultz
Member Hedlund