

FD 36873

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ENTERED  
Office of Chief Counsel  
November 13, 2025  
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STATE OF ARKANSAS

## *House of Representatives*

### REPRESENTATIVE

Mike Holcomb  
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### DISTRICT 93

#### Counties:

Part Cleveland  
Part Drew  
Part Jefferson  
Part Lincoln

### COMMITTEES:

Chairperson,  
Public Transportation  
City, County and Local Affairs  
Joint Performance Review

2nd Alternate,  
Arkansas Legislative Council

Joint Budget

October 13, 2025

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

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

As Chairman of the Arkansas House Transportation Committee, I fully endorse the proposed merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern, as I believe it will yield substantial benefits for families, workers, and businesses throughout Arkansas.

In Jefferson County, the significance of rail extends far beyond freight transportation; it is a cornerstone of our local economy, bolstering job creation and fostering community growth. The strategically located rail hubs in White Hall and Pine Bluff have been instrumental in creating a vibrant environment for small businesses, enhancing opportunities for our local farmers, and reinforcing our manufacturing sector.

This merger promises to enhance the efficiency and connectivity of our rail infrastructure, leading to reduced shipping costs for our businesses and providing much-needed job stability for workers across critical industries. By streamlining operations and improving service reliability, it will facilitate better access to national markets, thus driving economic development.

This merger represents a continued commitment to the growth and prosperity of our communities, ensuring that families across Arkansas can thrive in an increasingly competitive economy.

Chairman Fuchs  
October 13, 2025  
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I support this merger, as its approval will not only benefit Arkansas but will also serve as a catalyst for economic resilience on a national scale.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Holcomb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Holcomb  
State Representative  
District 93

MH/jc