



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

Pulaski County Quorum Court

27 October 2025

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

Dear Chairman Fuchs,

During my service in Pulaski County, I've witnessed how infrastructure choices influence daily life. Reliable rail access is a subtle but vital factor that supports our small businesses and the industries that sustain our local economy, helping Pulaski County advance. The proposed merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern represents a chance to strengthen that connection—bringing greater efficiency, expanded capacity, and more dependable service to the industries and employers that sustain our residents.

The growth in Pulaski County relies on strategic investments, and transportation plays a significant part in linking local businesses to opportunities. Union Pacific has contributed to Arkansas's development by investing in jobs, safety, and infrastructure. Norfolk Southern has a solid reputation for service and reliability, and these companies, combined, would strengthen the rail network—not just in supporting Pulaski County but also industries nationwide.

This merger focuses on community stability and future growth rather than just corporate size. Improved rail service helps farmers transport their harvests, allows manufacturers to reach markets more quickly, and helps small businesses compete regionally.

For these reasons, I believe the Union Pacific-Norfolk Southern merger is a step toward building a stronger, more resilient Central Arkansas economy, and I'm proud to support it on behalf of Pulaski County's residents.

Sincerely,

Hon. Phil Stowers, District 13
Pulaski County Quorum Court

