



WASHOE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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310559

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

October 16, 2025

RE: Support for Docket No. FD 36873, the Merger of Union Pacific Corporation and Norfolk Southern Corporation

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
November 13, 2025
Public Record

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

Washoe County appreciates the opportunity to share its support for the proposed merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern. A modern, dependable freight rail system is essential to Nevada's continued economic expansion. It will help link our businesses to national supply chains, strengthening regional logistics networks, and helping ensure goods reach markets efficiently and safely.

Union Pacific has played an important role in Northern Nevada's growth, serving as a partner in the movement of goods that sustain our industrial base. The proposed merger with Norfolk Southern would build upon that foundation by creating a more seamless, coast-to-coast rail network that improves coordination, reduces shipping delays, and enhances performance across the country. The combined Union Pacific-Norfolk Southern network will enhance Northern Nevada's transportation reach and competitive market.

For Washoe County, a more integrated rail system could deliver practical benefits. Streamlined routing could help reduce transit times for Nevada shippers, while shared resources and technology investments could improve safety and efficiency. As more freight moves by rail, fewer trucks will be needed on our highways which will reduce congestion, lower emissions and reduce wear on local infrastructure.

The combined Union Pacific-Norfolk Southern network will also enhance and improve the efficiency and safety of our national and regional passenger rail programs creating resilience in our transportation systems to support growth in work force and economic development. Washoe County depends on a robust transportation system for the movement of goods and people, and a safe and efficient rail system is an integral component of our region's growth and prosperity.

While we understand that regulatory review is a lengthy process, we are encouraged by the clear strategic rationale of this transaction. This merger of non-overlapping networks is poised to address systemic inefficiencies and create a stronger, more resilient national rail system that is better positioned to compete in the global marketplace and provide regional benefits across the combined system. We respectfully urge the Surface Transportation Board to approve this merger, allowing our nation's rail system to advance into a new era of efficiency and connectivity.

Thank you for your attention to Washoe County's perspective and for your ongoing commitment to a safe and efficient freight rail system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexis Hill".

Alexis Hill

Chair, Washoe County Board of County Commissioners

INTEGRITY

COMMUNICATION

SERVICE