



STATE OF ARKANSAS

House of Representatives

October 31, 2025

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

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

I strongly support the proposed merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern. This partnership represents not only a strategic advancement for our national freight network but also an opportunity to strengthen the economic foundation of Arkansas and the communities I represent with pride.

In Pine Bluff and throughout Jefferson County, the rail industry is more than just an economic driver—it is an integral part of our story. For generations, Union Pacific has provided stable, well-paying jobs, supported small businesses, and connected Arkansas products to markets nationwide. The company's long-standing presence in our region highlights the resilience and determination of our people. This merger presents an opportunity to build upon that legacy.

Looking ahead, this merger has the potential to revitalize the core industries that define our region. Pine Bluff's economy heavily depends on efficient rail services for timber, paper, logistics, and steel fabrication, which are essential for quick access to materials and markets. By enhancing Union Pacific's network through this merger, we could see faster turnaround times, increased investments in local facilities, and greater confidence from companies considering expansion and hiring in southeast Arkansas.

I respectfully ask the Board to consider the approval of this merger to help ensure that the people of my district, along with all Arkansans, continue to advance along the tracks of growth and progress.

Sincerely,

Kenneth B. Ferguson
State Representative
District 64

KBF/jc

REPRESENTATIVE

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DISTRICT: 64

Counties:

Part DeSha
Part Jefferson
Part Lincoln

COMMITTEES:

Public Health, Welfare and Labor
Insurance and Commerce
Alternate,
Joint Committee on Military and Veterans
Affairs
Rules
Legislative Joint Auditing Committee

