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Will Cagle, District 1
Richard Weatherby, District 2
Benny Carter, District 3
Corey Ragsdale, District 4

310882

February 5, 2026

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423
Subject: Support for Norfolk Southern & Union Pacific Merger

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Canton, Georgia 30114
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ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
February 18, 2026
Part of
Public Record

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

As a member of the Cherokee County Commission in Georgia, I'm writing to express my strong support for the proposed merger between Norfolk Southern and Union Pacific.

Freight rail is a cornerstone of our state's economy, safely moving the goods that power our industries and connect our communities to markets nationwide. Norfolk Southern has long been a transportation partner for our state, and this merger can reduce congestion on our roads, enhance public safety, and create efficiencies in shipping for businesses and consumers.

Cherokee County is one of the fastest-growing counties in Georgia, and we have a direct interest in the benefits brought about by this merger. We know that transportation is something we have to get right for our community. Starting this year, the voters have enacted a Transportation-Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax to boost our transportation investments over the next several years. Reduced traffic and enhanced safety are not issues that are abstract to us, they are real.

The proposed merger offers a unique opportunity to strengthen our community and deliver tangible benefits for consumers, communities, and shippers, including:

- **Improved Service Reliability:** More direct routes and greater operational flexibility will help prevent service disruptions and improve schedule dependability.
- **Reduced Transit Times:** Eliminating certain interchanges will speed the movement of goods, helping our businesses reach customers faster and more competitively.
- **Expanded Reach:** The broader geographic footprint will open new markets for our state's products and strengthen supply chain resilience.

This merger is about more than just railroads – it's about securing the future of our transportation network, enhancing public safety, and ensuring our economic development remains strong into the future.

I respectfully urge the Surface Transportation Board to give full and favorable consideration to this proposal, recognizing the benefits it will bring to our state and the national economy.

Sincerely,

Will Cagle

Cherokee County Commissioner – District 1

cc: Member Schultz
Member Hedlund