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STATE OF ARKANSAS

House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE

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DISTRICT: 26

Counties:

Part Carroll
Part Franklin
Madison

COMMITTEES:

Revenue and Taxation
Aging, Children and Youth, and
Legislative Affairs
1st Alternate,
Legislative Joint Auditing Committee

February 10, 2026

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

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

Economic growth depends on strong, reliable infrastructure that allows businesses to move goods efficiently, reach new markets, and expand operations with confidence. I support the proposed Union Pacific-Norfolk Southern merger because of what it means for Arkansas' economy and long-term competitiveness. In short, we want to keep the momentum growing.

Arkansas' economy is built on industries such as manufacturing, agriculture, energy, and logistics—all of which rely heavily on dependable freight transportation. A stronger, more integrated rail system can reduce delays, improve supply-chain reliability, and continue to make Arkansas a more attractive place for investment and job creation.

Before entering public service, I spent years doing what it takes to support my local economy and saw firsthand how closely opportunity is tied to stability. When local economies are strong, families stay, businesses grow, and towns are better positioned to thrive. Infrastructure is a critical link in that chain, especially in rural and small-town Arkansas, where access to markets can determine success or decline.

This merger represents an opportunity to modernize and strengthen a system that underpins much of our state's economic activity. Strengthening our freight infrastructure is a practical step toward ensuring Arkansas continues to be a place where businesses invest and families can build lasting futures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James P. Eaton".

James P. Eaton
State Representative
District 26

JE/jc