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STATE OF ARKANSAS



House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE

Zachary Gramlich
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DISTRICT: 50

Counties:
Part Sebastian

COMMITTEES:

Public Health, Welfare and Labor
Insurance and Commerce
Alternate,
Joint Committee on Military and Veterans
Affairs
Joint Committee on Energy
2nd Alternate,
Legislative Joint Auditing Committee
Joint Budget

February 27, 2026

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

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

Dependable partners are the backbone of the River Valley economy. In Fort Smith, local employers of all sectors, manufacturers, suppliers, and logistics partners, plan production schedules and payroll around the assumption that infrastructure will perform consistently. Stability and service are not theoretical ideas; they are the foundation that allows businesses to invest with confidence and workers to count on steady employment.

For decades, Union Pacific has been a reliable and consistent presence in our regional economy, which is why I support the merger between them and Norfolk Southern. That track record of service and operational strength has helped Fort Smith remain competitive in manufacturing, distribution, and river commerce. Businesses know what to expect, which is a major reason capital continues to flow into our community.

The proposed merger with Norfolk Southern presents an opportunity to extend that same level of dependability across a broader network. A more unified rail system can enhance route stability, improve service continuity, and reduce disruptions that strain supply chains, all of which the country has had to rally around in the aftermath of the pandemic. For companies competing in national and global markets, reliability is often the deciding factor between expansion and hesitation.

Chairman Fuchs
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In Fort Smith, we value our partners, and Union Pacific will continue to show up across the country. With appropriate regulatory review and approval, this merger can reinforce the stability that has defined rail service in the River Valley and communities like it for generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zach Gramlich", written in a cursive style.

Zachary Gramlich
State Representative
District 50

ZG/jc