



STATE OF ARKANSAS

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Office of Chief Counsel
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House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE

Richard Womack

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DISTRICT: 90

Counties:

Part Clark

Part Garland

Part Hot Springs

COMMITTEES:

Public Transportation

City, County and Local Affairs

Joint Committee on Public Retirement and

Social Security Programs

Legislative Joint Auditing Committee

March 9, 2026

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

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

In my district, we recognize that transportation infrastructure is the backbone of economic stability. From family-owned small businesses to large corporations, the local economy depends on reliable, trustworthy systems. Growth in this part of the state has always relied on infrastructure that keeps up with the needs of the people and industries it serves.

The proposed merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern should be evaluated through the lens of stability and future capacity. As South Arkansas continues to modernize, particularly in forestry and manufacturing, rail infrastructure must evolve accordingly. A more integrated network has the potential to make our railways stronger, more efficient, and stable for years to come.

For decades, Union Pacific has been a vital part of our infrastructure. Their reliable freight services have allowed businesses like mine to serve our communities and create growth opportunities. This operational stability gives employers the confidence they need to sustain their businesses in South Arkansas and attract new businesses to build on that momentum.



Chairman Fuchs
3/9/2026
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With proper regulatory handling and oversight, this merger can help ensure that rail services expand alongside the communities in my district and across the country, reinforcing the dependable foundation we have relied on for generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Womack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" and last name "Womack" clearly distinguishable.

Richard Womack
State Representative
District 90

RW/jc