



City of Albia, Iowa

120 South Main Street, Albia, Iowa 52531

Jay Andrews – Mayor
Linda Heller – City Clerk

311133

ENTERED

Office of Chief Counsel

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Public Record

Feb. 12, 2026

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs

Chairman -Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street SW Washington, D.C. 20423

Subject: Support for Proposed Merger Between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern

Dear Chairman Fuchs,

As the mayor of Albia, Iowa, I understand the importance of rail to our community. We have local businesses who work with repairing locomotives, to industrial operations that require freight. Our town also hosts an interchange that connects industries in southern Iowa with the materials they need to keep our local economy strong. Improved rail efficiency means better production and improved business operations; this has potential to increase rail service and in turn create more economic opportunity.

The state of Iowa has long relied on rail for manufacturing and agriculture; it has been an important part of keeping our rural communities connected to the continental United States. A dependable, efficient and reliable rail system is vital to ensuring economic success across the country, not just Iowa. The proposed merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern will help achieve this goal, and I support its approval.

On behalf of the City of Albia, I encourage the Surface Transportation Board to approve this merger. It represents an excellent opportunity to positively impact rural communities in Iowa, and it is a step worth taking to ensure a stronger American.

Sincerely,

Jay Andrews

Mayor - City of Albia