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Transportation - *Chair*
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311662

Thomas F. Patton
State Senator
24th District

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
June 22, 2026
Part of
Public Record

June 18, 2026

Docket No. FD 36873

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

Subject: Withdrawal of Support for Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern Merger

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

I write to formally withdraw my October 20, 2025 letter expressing support for the proposed Union Pacific-Norfolk Southern merger application now before the Surface Transportation Board.

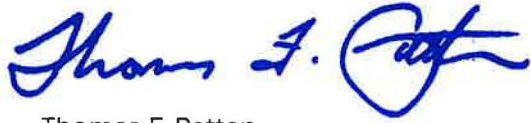
Before the application was submitted, I believed wholeheartedly that this merger would create economies of scale by reducing transit times and increasing reliability. Upon further review of the applicants' initial and subsequent filings, I have developed substantial concerns regarding the transaction's potential effects on Ohio's freight transportation network, including rail-served agricultural, chemical, and manufacturing customers that depend on safe, reliable, and competitive rail service. I am also concerned by the potential employment impacts on railroad employees in Ohio associated with the proposed consolidation and the resulting consequences for rail-dependent communities across the state.

As a Member of the Ohio Rail Development Commission, I can attest that Ohio has made sustained investments to strengthen its position as a national logistics and freight hub, supported by an integrated transportation system and significant private-sector commitments across the supply chain. Based on the record currently before the Board, it appears that the proposed transaction could introduce service disruptions, reduce competitive transportation options for shippers, and create broader imbalances within the regional freight marketplace.

For these reasons, I believe it is appropriate to withdraw my prior support.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to clarify my position on this important matter before the Surface Transportation Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Thomas F. Patton". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Thomas" written in a cursive script, followed by a period and the last name "Patton" in a more fluid, cursive style.

Thomas F. Patton
State Senator, 24th District