

Mayor  
Jim Fincher

Clerk Treasurer  
Cathy Shores



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19 May, 2026

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

ENTERED  
Office of Chief Counsel  
June 23, 2026  
Part of  
Public Record

Dear Chairman Fuchs,

In both banking and public service, you learn that growth depends on stability. Communities do best when they have infrastructure, they can rely on and when businesses feel confident enough to invest for the long term. In Alma, we understand that well. Sitting at the intersection of major transportation corridors, we've seen how important dependable infrastructure is to keeping local economies strong and connected.

That's why I support the proposed merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern. Infrastructure investments should always be measured by whether they improve reliability and create long-term value for the communities they serve. If this merger results in stronger coordination and a more dependable freight network like we expect, it will benefit not only the industry but the local economies throughout the River Valley.

Union Pacific has long been a partner in Western Arkansas. They have helped move products efficiently, supports local industry, and strengthens the broader transportation network businesses depend on every day. We have seen the system work consistently, and our communities are better positioned to grow responsibly while attracting new investment.

Alma has always benefited from being well-connected, and that becomes even more important as our region continues to thrive. With the right plans in place, this merger has the potential to strengthen the transportation foundation that businesses and communities across Western Arkansas depend on every day.

Sincerely,

Hon. Jim Fincher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Fincher", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor, City of Alma, AR

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