

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

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September 3, 2026

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Office of Chief Counsel

September 4, 2026

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Public Record

The Honorable Patrick Fuch
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

The Honorable Michelle Schultz
Vice Chair
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

The Honorable Karen Hedlund
Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

The Honorable Richard J. Kloster
Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Dear Chairman Fuchs, Vice Chair Schultz, Member Hedlund, and Member Kloster:

We write to urge the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to fully examine the consequences the proposed merger of Union Pacific Railroad (UP) and Norfolk Southern Railway (NS) could have for workers, staffing, service, safety, and existing labor protections. The jobs, rights, and safety of the workers who operate and maintain our railroads are fundamental to determining whether this transaction serves the public interest.

The combined railroad would operate roughly 50,000 miles of track across 43 states, giving one company enormous influence over where railroad jobs are, how many workers are employed, and how rail service is provided across the country. Those decisions would shape the livelihoods of tens of thousands of railroad workers and affect small businesses, short-line railroads, passenger rail providers, shippers, and communities throughout the nation. UP and NS must explain where they expect to find savings and how they will pay off the debt incurred to finance the merger, how those plans would affect workers and communities, and what consequences would follow if they break their promises on jobs, service, and safety.

The STB's review should pay particular attention to what the merger would mean for railroad workers' jobs, seniority, wages, benefits, and rights under their collective bargaining agreements. Federal law and long-standing "New York Dock Protections" protect workers affected by rail mergers, and railroads should not be allowed to skirt those protections by selling off lines, transferring work to Class II or Class III carriers, or using binding arbitration indefinitely to force through changes to collective bargaining agreements outside the Railway Labor Act over unions' objections. Workers should also not be forced to relocate hundreds or even thousands of miles at the risk of forfeiting the protections that are supposed to protect them from the consequences of a merger. The STB should hold the companies to a simple principle: workers' rights and benefits must endure through every transaction that follows this potential merger.

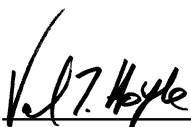
For these reasons, we urge you to carefully consider how the proposed merger could lead to the erosion of fundamental labor protections, and to take all necessary steps to protect the rail labor workforce and the employees of both railroads. Specifically, we ask you to assess whether the proposed merger would:

- 1) Result in workforce reductions that undermine necessary service and safety standards; and
- 2) Erode labor protections under 49 U.S.C. § 11324 if affected Class I railroads or railroad components sell, lease, or otherwise contract with Class II, or Class III railroads for parts of their network or rail operations post any approved merger; and
- 3) Undermine the Railway Labor Act by allowing a combined UP-NS railroad to make unilateral changes indefinitely to existing collective bargaining agreements through binding arbitration when New York Dock protections typically last at most six years.

The merger also raises serious concerns about giving one railroad more power in an industry where many customers already have few real choices. A combined UP-NS could have greater freedom to raise rates, reduce service, or dictate terms to the businesses that depend on rail. Those costs could ultimately make everyday goods more expensive for American families while forcing businesses to pay more for rail service.

We appreciate the STB's careful and independent review of this proposed merger. We encourage the Board to conduct a thorough investigation that gives full weight to the jobs, safety, and dignity of the workers who keep our rail system moving, and ensures that no part of this transaction leaves workers with fewer rights than they have today.

Sincerely,



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



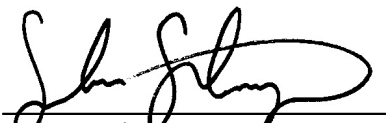
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



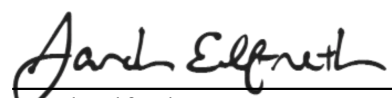
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



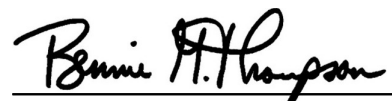
Subhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



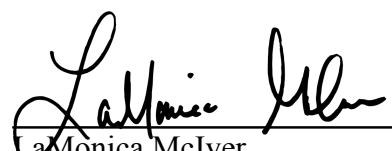
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



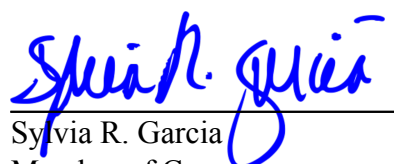
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



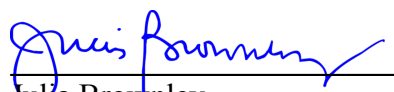
LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



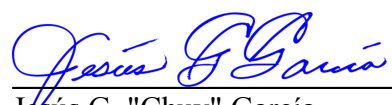
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



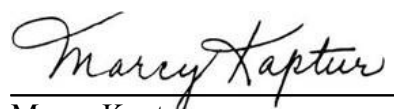
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



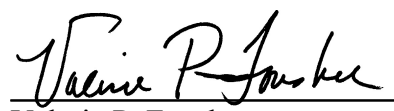
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



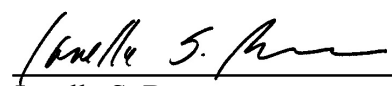
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



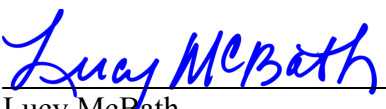
Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



Analilia Mejia
Member of Congress



André Carson
Ranking Member, Aviation
Subcommittee



Lucy McPath
Member of Congress



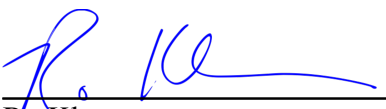
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



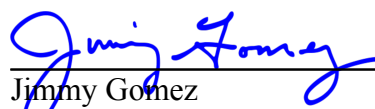
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



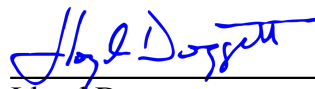
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



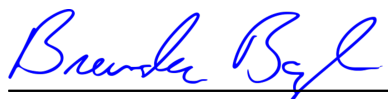
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



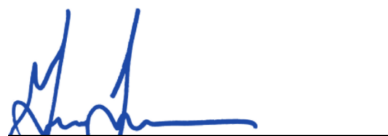
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



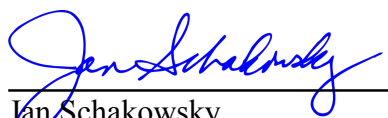
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



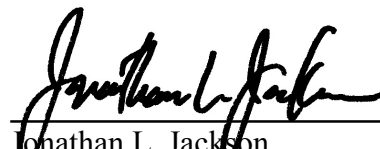
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



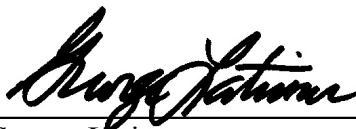
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



George Latimer
Member of Congress



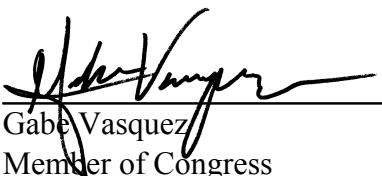
Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



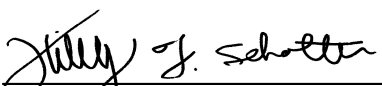
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



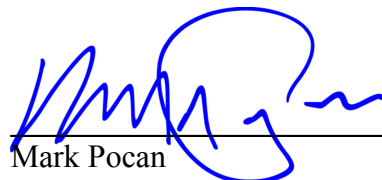
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



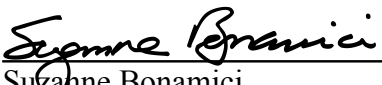
Adelita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



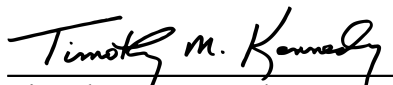
Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress

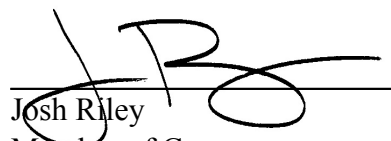


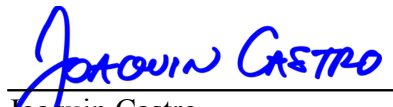
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress

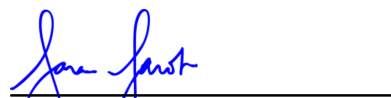

Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress

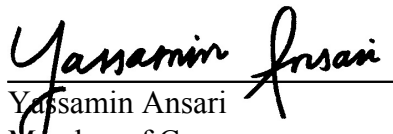

Josh Riley
Member of Congress


Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress


Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress

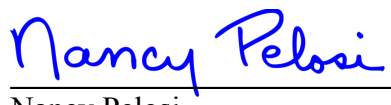

Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress

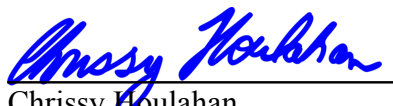

Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress


Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress


Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

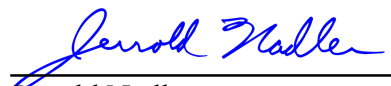

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

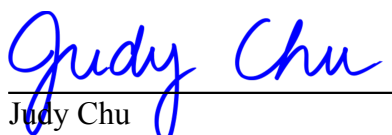

Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress


Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress


Steven Horsford
Member of Congress


Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress


Judy Chu
Member of Congress


Glenn F. Ivey
Member of Congress


Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress


Betty McCollum
Member of Congress


Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress


Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress


Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress


Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress


Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress

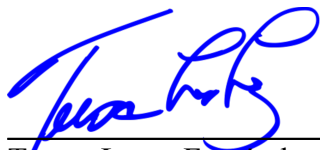

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress


Greg Casar
Member of Congress

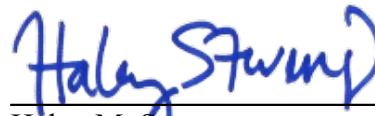

Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress


Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

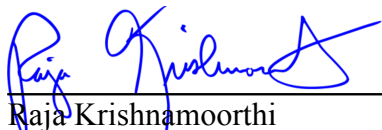

Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



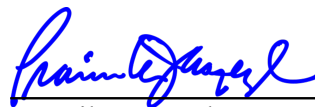
Teresa Leger Fernandez
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



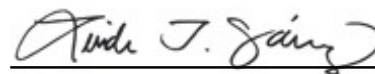
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



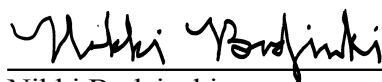
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



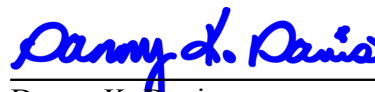
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



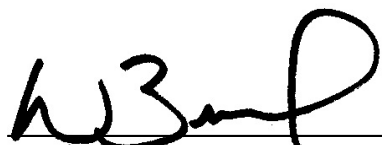
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



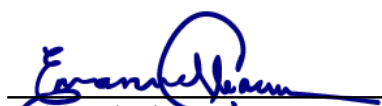
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Susie Lee
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress