October 27, 2026

Elizabeth Webster
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Docket No. FD 36873 — Request for a Portland Field Hearing

Dear Ms. Webster:

As a Portland resident, I urge the Surface Transportation Board to hold a field hearing in Portland as part of its environmental review of the proposed Union Pacific–Norfolk Southern merger.

Railroad crossing delays already disrupt daily life in Southeast Portland, particularly near SE 11th Avenue and Division Street. Long trains block connections that people depend on to reach work, businesses, appointments, and their homes. These disruptions affect people traveling by car, transit, bicycle, and on foot.

I am concerned that increased train traffic following the merger would compound these problems. More frequent or prolonged blockages could mean longer delays, additional vehicle idling and air pollution, increased noise, and less reliable access through our neighborhoods. The environmental review should examine these effects together, including their consequences for emergency access and the safety of people walking and bicycling.

A Portland hearing would give the Board an opportunity to hear directly from residents, local businesses, transit users, and emergency responders about existing conditions and the potential effects of additional rail traffic. Their experience can help the Board assess impacts that train counts and regional projections alone may not fully capture.

I also ask the Board to evaluate meaningful mitigation, including an overpass or other separated crossing that would maintain access for people driving, walking, bicycling, and taking transit when trains pass. Any merger-related increase in rail traffic should be accompanied by enforceable measures addressing its local impacts.

Please select Portland as a field hearing location and ensure that our community has a meaningful opportunity to participate in the environmental review.

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Matthew P. Forgue
Date: 2026.10.27 10:47:04 -07'00'

Matthew Forgue
Portland, Oregon