TROY A. CARTER, SR.
2ND DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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November 6, 2026

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November 6, 2026
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Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief of Case Administration
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Union Pacific Corporation and Union Pacific Railroad Company—Control—Norfolk Southern Corporation and Norfolk Southern Railway Company, Docket No. FD 36873

Dear Ms. Brown:

As the U.S. Representative for Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District, I urge your full and fair consideration of the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad Commission's (NOPB) responsive application in Docket No. FD 36873.

The New Orleans rail gateway is one of the most important freight corridors in the United States, and its continued competitiveness is essential to the economic vitality of the New Orleans region and the entire Gulf region. Our communities rely on multiple Class I railroads to access the Port of New Orleans and its industries on fair, neutral terms. For more than a century, NOPB has provided that neutrality.

The proposed UP–NS consolidation would place several critical gateway assets, including the NS Back Belt, the Chalmette Branch, and UP's Avondale Yard, under the control of a single Class I railroad. Without safeguards, this consolidation could limit competitive access for shippers, reduce interchange fluidity, and undermine the economic benefits associated with the Louisiana International Terminal (LIT), a generational investment in our region's future.

NOPB's request for nonexclusive trackage rights is a practical and narrowly tailored solution. Granting these rights will:

1. Preserve neutral rail access to LIT and other port facilities;
2. Maintain competitive interchange among all six Class I carriers;
3. Protect state and federal investments in the Port of New Orleans;
4. Support long-term economic growth for City/Parish/State.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Troy A. Carter Sr.
Member of Congress