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ADAM SCHNELTING
DISTRICT 23

312876

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
November 16, 2026
Part of
Public Record

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Dear Chairman Fuchs:

I write as a Missouri State Senator and Chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety to urge the Surface Transportation Board to conduct a rigorous and comprehensive review of the proposed merger between Union Pacific Railroad and Norfolk Southern Railway.

Due to concerns over the risks it poses to competition, service reliability, and the cost of moving goods through Missouri, I must respectfully oppose this merger as presented. The Board should approve a transaction of this scale only if it enhances competition and is clearly in the public interest. On the record now before the Board, I do not believe that showing has been made. The burden rests with the applicant railroads. They must demonstrate clear, measurable, and substantial benefits for manufacturers, agricultural producers, the energy sector, and American consumers who depend on an efficient, competitive, and cost-effective freight rail system. Absent that showing, the Board should not permit this transaction to proceed.

I have already heard concerns that the UP-NS application lacks serious, enforceable commitments to enhance competition and protect against service failures. Those concerns, together with the concentration this transaction would create, lead me to oppose approval of the merger in its current form. The Board must weigh these risks with extreme care and should not find that this transaction meets the public interest test unless the applicants first make a far stronger showing.

Thank you for the responsibility you hold to safeguard competition, reliability, and resilience across the nation's freight rail system, including the corridors that run through Missouri.

Very Respectfully,

Adam Schnelting

Missouri State Senator, District 23
Chair, Senate Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety
Vice Chair, Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight