SHEET METAL | AIR | RAIL | TRANSPORTATION

# Louisiana Legislative Board

429 Government St. • Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802
Phone:225-800-2910

**Chris Christianson**
State Safety and Legislative Director

312897

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
November 17, 2026
Part of
Public Record

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Docket FD 36873, Support for the Proposed Union Pacific-Norfolk Southern Merger

Members of the Board:

I serve as SMART Transportation Division's State Safety and Legislative Director for Louisiana, representing 930 total members with 446 Union Pacific and 23 Norfolk Southern employees as members. I support approval of the proposed Union Pacific-Norfolk Southern merger. My 25 years of railroad experience as a conductor and has given me the perspective to make this endorsement with confidence.

Connecting UP's western network with NS's eastern network offers an opportunity to reduce interchange delays and give shippers faster, seamless service. That kind of service will also attract freight now moving by truck on our highways. The city of New Orleans, the New Orleans Port, the Petrochemical, and Farming industry would benefit from faster more reliable service. From my perspective, this merger will economically benefit the people of Louisiana as well as its railroaders.

Moving freight from highways to rail is also a safety benefit for the national transportation network. Every shipment that shifts to a train means fewer heavy trucks on crowded roads and highways. Baton Rouge and New Orleans both will benefit and reduce traffic congestion on Interstate 10 should this merger be approved.

Delivering faster service requires sufficient staffing. SMART-TD's Jobs for Life agreement protects covered railroaders and their crafts throughout their careers if this merger is approved and completed. That keeps experienced railroaders on the job who know the territory, the operating rules, and the customers, and who can expedite recovery of service when operations don't go as planned.

I ask the Board to approve the proposed merger with appropriate safeguards and oversight addressing safety, service reliability, shipper access, and community impacts. Approval of this merger, along with the SMART-TD agreement that accompanies it, will deliver a railroad that serves shippers faster and more reliably while keeping trained railroaders on our locomotives.

In Solidarity,



I certify that I have this day served copies of this document upon all parties of record in this proceeding, by email to those parties who have accepted email service and by first-class mail to all others, consistent with 49 C.F.R. § 1104.12(a).

11/16/2026 Chris Christianson- Louisiana State Safety and Legislative Director

