D.W. Phillips, Chairperson
General Committee 680

Norfolk & Western Railway
Central of Georgia RR

SHEET METAL | AIR | RAIL | TRANSPORTATION
SMART
TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

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

November 16, 2026

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 General Chairperson of SMART Transportation Division General Committee 680 representing more than 825 Train Personnel (Conductors and Engineers) employed by Norfolk Southern across the former Norfolk and Western Property, the former Central of Georgia Railroad, and the Norfolk Portsmouth Beltline.

I support approval of the proposed Union Pacific-Norfolk Southern merger. My 30 years of railroad experience and responsibility of enforcing our agreements give me the perspective to endorse the merger 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. Better service can attract freight now moving by truck and create more work for the railroaders I represent. Macon Georgia and Roanoke Virginia are two terminals where improved connections would benefit commerce locally, regionally, and nationally. These terminals are already robust inland terminals that have direct service to two major eastern ports, Savannah GA and Norfolk VA. The projected increased volumes will support additional train crews and Union Dock Workers. Norfolk VA is home to Norfolk International and Portlock container terminals, as well as Lamberts Point (the largest coal dumping export operation in the world). The proposed merger would expand job growth and commerce, having a direct impact on surrounding communities and businesses which are necessary to support this expansion of service and our industry.

SMART-TD's Jobs for Life Agreement is the central reason for my support. This unprecedented agreement provides job security within the Seniority District the employees currently work under, eliminating worry of job loss or extended moves to a distant location.

SMART-TD Committee Members have found comfort in knowing that the Jobs for Life Agreement ensures continued employment and financial security for their families. Upon approval and completion, covered members will gain career-long job, craft, and location protections.

SMART-TD General Committee 680 is prepared to enforce the Jobs for Life Agreement and all other applicable agreements throughout the transition, holding the railroad accountable in honoring its commitments and protecting members' rights. This committee is committed to ensuring our members are protected. Under this agreement members will protect their work, keeping the supply chain moving.

I ask the Board to approve the proposed merger with appropriate safeguards and oversight addressing employees, safety, service reliability, and competition. Approval, along with the agreement accompanying it, offers the opportunity to increase freight traffic while giving railroaders the career protections SMART-TD negotiated.

Respectfully,

David W. Phillips, General Chairperson
SMART-TD GCA680

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SMART

TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

1. 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).

November 17, 2026

David W. Phillips,
SMART-TD General Chairperson GCA 680

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