November 17, 2026

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Office of Chief Counsel
November 18, 2026
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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

From:
Clyde A. Whitaker
512 Camdenway Ct.
Unit B.,
Columbus, OH. 43213

Members of the Board:

I serve as SMART Transportation Division's State Safety and Legislative Director for **Ohio**, representing 3000 active and retired members in the state, with over 700 active Norfolk Southern Corp., employees. I support approval of the proposed Union Pacific-Norfolk Southern merger. My 26 years of railroad experience as a conductor, engineer, and state director have 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. **(Identify a corridor, terminal, industry, or business in your state where improved service could help, and explain how faster rail service would support it.)** From my perspective, this merger will economically benefit the people of **Ohio** 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. **Ohio's roadways are almost expanded to their limit and congestion is just over bearing and rail is the solution.**

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.

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.C. §1104.12(a).

In Solidarity,

