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Public Record

The Honorable Patrick Fuchs
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board

The Honorable Michelle Schultz
Vice Chairman
Surface Transportation Board

The Honorable Karen Hedlund
Member
Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman Fuchs, Vice Chairman Schultz and Member Hedlund,

On behalf of the undersigned trade associations, chambers and businesses representing vital sectors of the U.S. economy, we write to express strong concerns regarding the proposed merger between Union Pacific Railroad and Norfolk Southern Railway.

Our industries collectively represent millions of American workers that depend on freight rail as an important link in the supply chain. Without it, American consumers can't affordably access the goods and services they rely on every day. Reliable and affordable freight rail service is essential to maintaining U.S. manufacturing strength, supporting energy security, and ensuring reliable supply chains.

History has shown that increased rail consolidation leads to fewer choices, higher transportation costs, service disruptions, and reduced economic competitiveness. Today, just four Class I railroads control more than 90% of freight rail traffic. The proposed UP/NS transaction would be the largest rail merger in history and would put control of more than 40% of rail traffic in the hands of a single railroad. It would further weaken the small amount of competition that currently exists in the railroad industry. Past rail mergers have triggered major breakdowns in the supply chain and increased costs for businesses and consumers alike.

Given the potential for widespread economic harm, it is essential that the Surface Transportation Board proceed with great care. The creation of a transcontinental railroad must not come at the expense of competition, service reliability, or the broader health of the U.S. supply chain.

We respectfully urge the Board to thoroughly scrutinize this merger proposal to ensure it does not undermine the integrity of our nation's transportation network or disrupt the supply chain.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Association of Iowa
Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Agricultural Retailers Association
Alabama Chemistry Council
Alliance for Automotive Innovation
Alliance for Chemical Distribution
American Chemistry Council
American Coatings Association
American Foundry Society
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers
AmericanHort
Associated Industries of Vermont
Builders Association of Minnesota
Can Manufacturers Institute
Chemical Industry Council of Illinois
Chemistry Council of New Jersey
Chlorine Institute
Communications Cable and Connectivity Association
Council of Producers & Distributors of Agrotechnology
Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce
EPS Industry Alliance
Essential Minerals Association
Freight Rail Customer Alliance
Georgia Chemistry Council
Household and Commercial Products Association
Illinois Farm Bureau
Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association
Institute of Makers of Explosives
Kentucky Association of Manufacturers
Maine Forest Products Council
Maine State Chamber of Commerce
Manufacturers Association of Maine
Massachusetts Chemistry & Technology Alliance
Minnesota AgriGrowth Council

Minnesota Automobile Dealers Association
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers
Minnesota Farmers Union
Minnesota Forest Industries
Minnesota Grocers Association
Montana Agricultural Business
Montana Chamber of Commerce
National Industrial Transportation League
New York State Chemistry Council
Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
North Carolina Agribusiness Council
North Dakota Association of Builders
North Dakota Chamber of Commerce
North Dakota Petroleum Council
Ohio Chemistry Technology Council
Pennsylvania Chemical Industry Council
Performance Racing Industry
Pet Food Institute
Pine Chemicals Association International
PLASTICS Industry Association
Rail Passengers Association
South Dakota Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Specialty Equipment Market Association
Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance
Treasure State Resources Association of Montana
Vinyl Institute
Wayzata West Metro Chamber
West Virginia Manufacturers Association
Willmar Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association