



October 27, 2025

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Subject: Support for Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern Merger, Docket # FD 36873

Dear Chairman Fuchs,

As a long-time community partner of Union Pacific and an affordable housing provider in Houston's East End, New Hope Housing recognizes the essential role that reliable rail service plays in regional economic vitality and community well-being. Our organization develops and operates affordable, service-enriched housing near key infrastructure and employment centers where Union Pacific operates. Our support for this merger is grounded solely in its anticipated community benefits and alignment with our mission to promote housing stability.

Union Pacific has also generously supported New Hope's onsite wrap-around human services, which help residents build stability and connect with community resources. This investment reflects Union Pacific's genuine commitment to the people and neighborhoods they serve, ensuring that economic progress extends to those working to build better futures.

The proposed Union Pacific-Norfolk Southern merger offers the potential to further strengthen these connections. A unified transcontinental rail network could enhance supply chain efficiency, promote economic growth, and expand workforce opportunities across the communities we jointly serve to continue meaningful local impact.

On behalf of New Hope Housing, I respectfully urge the Surface Transportation Board to approve this merger so that our region and others can benefit from the resulting operational efficiencies, continued infrastructure investment, and expanded pathways to prosperity for working families.

Sincerely,

Joy Horak-Brown
President and CEO