



February 25, 2026

FD 36783

Chair Patrick J. Fuchs
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

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ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
March 10, 2026
Part of
Public Record

Dear Chair Patrick J. Fuchs,

It has come to my attention that on October 21, 2025, Trees for Houston submitted a letter to the Surface Transportation Board in support of the proposed Union Pacific–Norfolk Southern merger and listed “Rodney Ellis” among its Board of Advisors. While my office values the organization’s work, neither I nor my office reviewed, authorized, or approved that letter, and Trees for Houston’s use of my name as an “Advisor” does not confer authority to speak on my behalf or to imply my support for this merger in any way.

My position has been and remains clear: I stand with the residents of Settegast and Greater Fifth Ward in demanding environmental justice, including meaningful reductions in emissions and particulate matter that harm families, and real accountability from Union Pacific and other polluters operating in and around these communities. Any proposed action that risks increasing heavy traffic, air pollution, or cumulative health burdens in these neighborhoods is a matter of serious concern, and I will continue to evaluate it through that lens of community health, equity, and environmental protection for frontline neighborhoods.

Please consider this letter a clarification of my position for the record and an explanation that Trees for Houston’s prior correspondence should not be interpreted as reflecting my views or speaking on my behalf. Going forward, any communication that appears to convey my position, or that references my name, office, or title in support of this or any related policy matter, should be based solely on statements issued or expressly approved of by me and my office.

We value our relationship with Trees for Houston and look forward to discussing this matter further to ensure continued alignment in our shared commitment to equity and environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodney Ellis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Rodney Ellis