



WALLER COUNTY
Carbett "Trey" J. Duhon III
County Judge

September 25, 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 Number: FD 36873

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

As County Judge of Waller County, I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern.

Freight rail is a cornerstone of our state's economy, safely moving the goods that power our industries, support our farmers and connect our communities to markets across the nation and the world. Union Pacific has long been an essential transportation partner for our state, providing efficient, reliable and cost-effective service to businesses large and small. The American freight rail network is not only critical to our economic growth – it is also one of the most sustainable modes of transportation available, helping reduce highway congestion and emissions.

The proposed merger offers a unique opportunity to strengthen this network and deliver tangible benefits for shippers, consumers and communities, including:

- **Improved Service Reliability:** More direct routes and greater operational flexibility will help prevent service disruptions and improve schedule dependability.
- **Reduced Transit Times:** Eliminating certain interchanges will speed the movement of goods, helping our businesses reach customers faster and more competitively.
- **Increased Investment:** The transcontinental railroad will be better positioned to invest in modern infrastructure, advanced technology and enhanced safety systems.