



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EDDIE MORALES, JR.

District 74

November 20th, 2025

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

RE: Support for Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern Merger, Docket Number: FD 36873

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

As State Representative for House District 74, I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern.

Freight rail plays an outsized role in HD 74. From the agricultural producers of South Texas to the energy, mining, and manufacturing operations across Permian Basin, our communities rely on efficient, reliable rail service to move goods to markets across the region. Union Pacific has long been a critical transportation partner for our district from supporting local businesses, sustaining jobs, and serving as a vital connection from West Texas to the rest of the state and the nation.

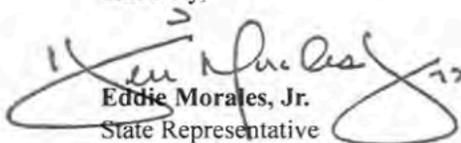
The proposed merger offers a unique opportunity to strengthen this network in ways that directly benefit the shippers, consumers, and communities of HD 74, including:

- **Improved Service Reliability:** More direct routes and greater operational flexibility will help reduce disruptions that particularly impact rural shippers and small businesses across our district.
- **Reduced Transit Times:** Eliminating certain interchanges will speed delivery of agricultural products, energy resources, and manufactured goods originating in HD 74, helping our businesses compete more effectively.
- **Increased Investment:** A stronger transcontinental network will support long-term improvements in rail infrastructure, advanced technology, and safety systems, critical for a district with vast distances and growing freight needs.
- **Expanded Market Reach:** A broader geographic footprint will open additional markets for producers and employers in HD 74, enhancing supply chain resilience and supporting local economic growth.

This merger is about more than the consolidation of two railroads, it is about securing the future of transportation for rural and border communities, supporting economic development throughout West Texas, and ensuring American freight rail remains globally competitive.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Surface Transportation Board to give full and favorable consideration to this proposal, recognizing the meaningful benefits it will bring to House District 74, the State of Texas, and the national economy.

Sincerely,


Eddie Morales, Jr.
State Representative