



ROBERT L. NICHOLS
STATE SENATOR

November 7, 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

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

As a member of the Texas State Senate representing East Texas, I write to express my strong support for the proposed merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern railways. This merger promises to strengthen rail infrastructure, enhance freight efficiency, and create economic opportunities across our region.

East Texas, including my hometown of Jacksonville, which is directly served by Union Pacific rail lines, relies heavily on efficient rail transportation for industries ranging from timber and agriculture to manufacturing and energy. The consolidation of these two major carriers will improve service reliability, expand capacity, and better connect local businesses to national and international markets. This, in turn, will support job growth and economic development throughout Senate District 3 and the surrounding communities.

I urge the Surface Transportation Board to approve this merger, recognizing the significant benefits it will bring to East Texas and to the broader state economy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Nichols".

Robert L. Nichols
State Senator, District 3

cc: Member Schultz
Member Hedlund