

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4329

December 19, 2025

Patrick Fuchs
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Karen Hedlund
Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Michelle Shultz
Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Subject: Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern Merger Concerns, Docket Number: FD 36873

Dear Chairman Fuchs, Member Schultz, and Member Hedlund:

I am writing with concerns about Union Pacific's (UP) proposed merger with Norfolk Southern (NS). I strongly request that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) conduct a robust and transparent review of the merger, its impact on consumer and passenger standards, and neighboring communities, particularly my district.

My district, the 29th Congressional District of Texas, encompasses Harris County. The lives of residents in my district are directly affected by trains, as our community is among the busiest rail corridors in the nation. Freight is a vital part of Harris County's economy. It supports multiple industries like energy, manufacturing, and trade, while generating huge economic value and jobs for the community.

While I recognize the positive economic benefits of this merger to our economy, I am deeply concerned that this merger could further add to the negative daily impacts that freight services present, including blocked crossings, worsening safety standards for residents near rail lines, and traffic pattern disruption. The East End neighborhood in Houston already experiences these interruptions routinely. Any potential merger must ensure that these conditions are improved and not exacerbated.

In addition to any direct impacts on the surrounding community, a merger may also lead to deteriorating consumer and passenger rail experiences, increases in service breakdowns, and increased costs due to a lack of competition.

The STB must conduct a careful and thorough review of the potential merger to ensure the best outcome for all parties involved. As you consider this potential merger, I strongly urge the Board to keep the best interests of the public, including impacted communities, consumers, and rail shippers, in mind during your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress