Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 19, 2025

The Honorable Patrick Fuchs
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

The Honorable Michelle Schultz
Vice Chair
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

The Honorable Karen Hedlund
Member
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Dear Chairman Fuchs, Vice Chair Schultz, and Member Hedlund:

We write in support of the proposed merger between Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern. We trust that, after a thorough review, the Board will approve this merger, bringing about the nation's first transcontinental railroad.

As the Board conducts its review, we believe the benefits associated with the new transcontinental railroad will demonstrate that this merger will enhance competition and provide value to the public. The reduced interchange delays will result in decreased transit times and increased service reliability. The new routes and expanded intermodal service also provide significant new opportunities for shippers. Furthermore, the limited overlap in existing networks of Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern results in only a handful of shippers seeing service decreased from two freight rail carriers to one, and we trust Union Pacific will take the necessary action to ensure continued competition for their service. We are also encouraged by Union Pacific's commitment to maintain gateway access and address associated gateway pricing.

Notably, the proposed merger has received the early support of multiple labor unions, including SMART Transportation Division (SMART-TD), the largest union in the country. Additionally, rail customers across key industries — including agriculture, manufacturing, and energy — have voiced their support, citing improved market access, greater operational flexibility, and faster, more reliable service.

We support the merger of Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern and look forward to the opportunities generated by our nation's first truly transcontinental railroad. As you complete your review, we are confident you will find that the proposed merger serves the public interest

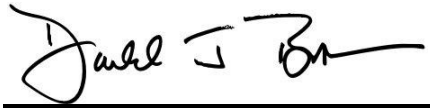
and strengthens competition nationwide. Thank you all for your attention to this letter and for your service at the Surface Transportation Board.

Sincerely,

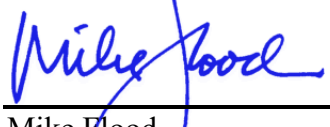
Deb Fischer
United States Senator

Pete Ricketts
United States Senator

Adrian Smith
United States Representative



Don Bacon
United States Representative



Mike Flood
United States Representative