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Small Business and Economic Opportunity
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George F. Lang
Senate Majority Whip
4th District

August 26, 2026

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

312103

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
August 27, 2026
Part of
Public Record

Re: Withdrawal of Support for UP/NS Merger

Dear Chairman Fuchs:

I write to formally withdraw my October 21, 2025 letter expressing support for the proposed Union Pacific/Norfolk Southern merger application now before the Surface Transportation Board.

Upon further review of the applicants' initial and subsequent filings, I have developed substantial concerns regarding the transaction's potential effects on Ohio's freight transportation network, including rail-served agricultural, chemical, and manufacturing customers that depend on safe, reliable, and competitive rail service. I am also concerned by the potential employment impacts on railroad employees in Ohio associated with the proposed consolidation and the resulting consequences for rail-dependent communities across the state.

As a Member of the Ohio Legislature for many years, I can attest that Ohio has made sustained investments to strengthen its position as a national logistics and freight hub, supported by an integrated transportation system and significant private-sector commitments across the supply chain.

Based on the record currently before the Board, it appears that the proposed transaction could introduce service disruptions, reduce competitive transportation options for shippers, and create broader imbalances within the regional freight marketplace.

It's important to highlight that the resulting operational impacts following an approved merger could be catastrophic in my Senate district, as many communities now face issues with current Norfolk Southern operations at grade crossings. Any disruption to rail operations would only make these issues worse.

For these reasons, I believe it is appropriate to withdraw my prior support.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to clarify my position on this important matter before the Surface Transportation Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George Lang". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Senate Majority Whip
Ohio Senate District 4