



A Private Non-Profit Development Corporation

February 8, 2016

The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott III  
Chairman  
United State Surface Transportation Board  
395 E. Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman  
Vice Chairman  
United States Surface Transportation Board  
395 E. Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

The Honorable Debra Miller  
United States Surface Transportation Board  
395 E. Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Chairman Elliott and Surface Transportation Board Members:

On behalf of Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation, the lead economic development organization serving the business needs of Blair County with continued emphasis on the development of the regional I 99 Innovation Corridor, I am writing to urge your close scrutiny of the proposal by Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) to acquire Norfolk Southern (NS). The Altoona/Blair County area's history is a history founded by the Pennsylvania Railroad when this area was home to the largest railroad car building, locomotive building, and car repair shop in the world. At that time, over 20,000 people were employed by the Pennsylvania Railroad. Over the years, we have seen significant changes within the railroading industry, yet today Altoona still provides facilities to NS including the largest locomotive repair shop in North America.

NS has been a great partner not only to the Altoona area but to the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It's network includes 2,278 miles of track, 1,468 bridges, 12 rail yards, 10 terminals, three ports and three locomotive shops, one of which being the aforementioned repair shop in Altoona, and the system employs 5,200 in Pennsylvania.

**IDC**  
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*The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott III*

*The Honorable Ann D. Begeman*

*The Honorable Debra Miller*

*February 4, 2016*

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I believe that the CP model of operation will significantly jeopardize the aggressive approach to business and economic development that NS is well known for throughout their service area. States and communities that are served by the Industrial Development Department within NS are provided with site identification and development assistance, marketing and project management when prospects are considering locations that are served by NS. As an organization that promotes economic development and an area that has a rich railroading history, we know for a fact that NS is a true partner when it comes to providing development assistance.

In closing, ABCD Corp. is concerned that any merger could jeopardize the future of the approximately 1,000 individuals that are employed in the Altoona facilities where family sustainable wages are paid that contribute significantly to our regional economy. I am also concerned that any merger could potentially lead to negative impacts on the freight rail service here in Central Pennsylvania, throughout Pennsylvania and throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region.

We exist today as a community because of the impact that the Pennsylvania Railroad had in the mid 1800s. We continue to serve as a growing community in part because of the excellent relationship that we have with NS and their commitment to the Altoona/Blair County community. Thank you for your careful consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Martin J. Marasco  
President & CEO

MJM:cem

C: Governor Tom Wolf  
Congressman Bill Shuster  
Senator Pat Toomey  
Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
Brent Vernon  
Senator John Eichelberger  
Representative Judy Ward  
Representative John McGinnis  
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City Manager Marla Marcinko  
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