



birminghambusinessalliance
THE CHAMBER FOR REGIONAL PROSPERITY

February 12, 2016

Chairman Daniel R. Elliott, III
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman Elliott:

The Birmingham Business Alliance (BBA) submits this letter regarding the proposed transaction involving Canadian Pacific and Norfolk Southern rail line.

The BBA is the lead economic development organization representing a seven-county region that includes Jefferson, Walker, Blount, St. Clair, Shelby, Bibb and Chilton counties in Alabama. We know that transportation infrastructure is critical to economic development success and high quality, reliable rail service is a key component in any transportation network. We are proud of the partnership that we have with Norfolk Southern and value greatly their work and support in our community's efforts to recruit business and industry to our region. They have been an important ally in the site development process and have provided meaningful technical and project management support to us when business prospects visit.

As you consider the matters at hand, we respectfully request that you take into account the importance of this relationship and what its disruption may mean for economic development throughout our region.

Sincerely,

Brian Hilson
President and CEO
Birmingham Business Alliance