



Corporation for
Economic Development

Anderson / Madison County, Indiana

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Chairman Daniel R. Elliott, III
Vice Chairman Deb Miller
Member Ann D. Begeman

February 4th, 2016

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-000

Dear Chairman Elliott and Surface Transportation Board Members:

I am writing to you regarding Canadian Pacific Railway's proposal to acquire Norfolk Southern Corporation. As Economic Development Director for Madison County, Indiana, I have concerns about the potential impacts a proposed NS -CP merger may have on the region, its businesses, and its future prospects for economic development.

Norfolk Southern has been a partner in providing timely investment and cooperation to improve their network, resulting in an environment conducive to manufacturing growth. A merger may place this rail access and investment in jeopardy. Competitive rail access and service are critical to our efforts of Economic Development in Central Indiana. Norfolk Southern has been a crucial partner in assisting Madison County, and more specifically the City of Alexandria, in creating a large shovel ready site capable of bringing thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in investment to an area that desperately needs re-developed.

In addition to the shovel ready site, Norfolk Southern has also been an active part of supporting Economic Development in our County. I am afraid that the support our community currently receives from Norfolk Southern will become an afterthought to realizing the "synergies" Canadian Pacific has touted over the last several weeks.

Given these facts and the current economic pressures on the entire industry, I believe the Board should be focused on public policy solutions that boost economic growth, support strong sustainable rail competition, and protect the recent service gains that are helping our shippers and communities. I encourage the Surface Transportation Board to review any proposal by Canadian Pacific very closely in light of the potential significant public interest harms.

Sincerely,

Rob Sparks, Executive Director
Corporation for Economic Development
Anderson / Madison County, Indiana