



*Devoris Center For Business Development
3900 Industrial Park Drive
Altoona, PA 16602*

February 22, 2016

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*Patrick M. Miller
Executive Director*

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

VISION

Downtown Altoona will be a beautiful vibrant and inviting destination of choice for those who want to live, work, play, learn, and grow in Central Pennsylvania.

MISSION

The Greater Altoona Economic Development Corporation (GAEDC) will be the lead agency to promote the development of downtown Altoona

Dear Chairman Elliott and Surface Transportation Board Members:

On behalf of Greater Altoona Economic Development Corporation (GAEDC) an organization whose mission is to serve as the lead development organization promoting the development of downtown Altoona, Pennsylvania, I am writing to urge your close scrutiny of the proposal by Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) to acquire Norfolk Southern (NS). Altoona'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 to this community and to the 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.

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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, GAEDC is concerned that any merger could jeopardize the future of the approximately 1,200+ individuals that are employed in the Altoona facilities both within the shops and transportation department where family sustainable wages are paid that contribute significantly to our regional economy. Over \$65 million in payroll alone is injected into our local economy each year as well as the millions spent locally on supplies and materials.

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,



Patrick M. Miller

Executive Director

PMM: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
Blair County Commissioners
Mayor Matt Pacifico
City Manager Marla Marcinko
Logan Township Supervisors