



February 6, 2016

Chairman Daniel R. Elliott, III
Vice Chairman Deb Miller
Member Ann D. Begeman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-000

Dear Surface Transportation Board:

As a local economic development organization, our team works closely with Norfolk Southern Industrial Development to recruit and retain industry in our county. The presence of the Norfolk Southern railroad lines in our county represent a significant asset for our economic development efforts. NS has invested and maintained these lines over decades and provides quality service to industry in our county.

Based on published reports, Canadian Pacific intends to shed lines and assets at Norfolk Southern which will reduce their ability to provide quality service and will allow the rail assets of our community to deteriorate. We are completely opposed to any such effort and oppose this merger effort by Canadian Pacific.

We need Norfolk Southern in our community as a partner to assist in the attraction of capital investment and jobs and so the railroad can continue to grow, invest and service industry in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard K. Blackwell".

Richard K. Blackwell
Executive Director