



Paul C. LaMarre III
Port Director



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Commissioner



John Emig, Jr., PE
Engineer

Matthew D. Budds, Esq.
General Legal Counsel

10 Port Ave.
P.O. Box 585
Monroe, MI 48161

TEL: (734) 241-6480
FAX: (734) 241-2964

www.portofmonroe.com

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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 Chairman Elliot & Committee Members,

It is no secret that our great nation was built upon the backs of the tireless American people and their ingenuity, which gave rise to the industrial revolution and Westward expansion that sustains us today. Such prosperity was accomplished amongst some of the finest railroads the world has ever seen, most of which are now part of the Norfolk Southern (NS) system.

NS is one of two Class 1 railroads serving the Port of Monroe, MI and represents the most efficient and economic rail alternative for our massive industrial base. Yet while NS focuses on customer service it is quite evident that their international competitor, Canadian Pacific (CP) is poised to stage a hostile takeover at the cost of American jobs, dynamic strategic planning, and domestic infrastructure sustainability.

To put it simply it is my firm belief that a NS/CP merger or consolidation would be “un-American” and would have great American industrialists such as Cornelius Vanderbilt rolling in their graves.

At a time of limited resources and unrelenting international pressures, both cultural and economic, it is critically important that we maintain control of the delivery system that transports the fruits of our nation to the common American citizen. Norfolk Southern represents the finest in rail service past, present, and future and should be able to continue without interference.

Your support of this position is greatly appreciated and our thanks are eternal.

Very Respectfully,

Paul C. LaMarre III
Port Director
Port of Monroe, MI