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February 10, 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

Dear Chairman Elliott and Surface Transportation Board Members,

As a multiple terminal operator for the Norfolk Southern Railway specializing in the FRAC sand industry, the owners of Prairie Transportation have been monitoring the possible takeover/merger of the CP and NS Railways. We currently operate both origin and destination facilities in multiple states along the NS line. Through our business relationship, we have worked to develop and expand the NS market base and bring new customers to the rail transportation industry. We have worked with the NS to bring competitive rates, improved service levels and shortened transit times for our customers as opposed to other methods of transportation.

If this merger is allowed to take place, we feel that it would jeopardize not only our service and safety levels, but also the competitive rates that the industry is currently operating with. Should this takeover be approved, the resulting company will take measures to cut costs, thus drive transportation costs higher, reduce service levels, performance and possible increased safety risks. Potential management changes could have an adverse effect on our current operations, by eliminating the work experience and the understanding of the market as it exists today.

We feel that this merger/takeover poses no benefit to the public interest. Conversely, it has the potential to adversely impact future sales by eliminating our current sales market and forcing our new customer base back to their previous modes of transportation.

Respectfully,

Sean Smith  
President

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