



411 Oberlin Ave. SW
Massillon, OH 44647

To whom it may concern:

We are writing you on behalf of Republic Short Line Railroad to express our concerns regarding the Canadian Pacific Railway's proposed acquisition of Norfolk Southern Corporation. We at Republic Short Line Railroad have an excellent relationship with Norfolk Southern and would not want to have this relationship jeopardized. Currently, we are working with Norfolk Southern on several major projects which will not only boost revenues for Norfolk Southern and the Republic Short Line Railroad, but it will also bring many well-paying and badly needed jobs to our area. We are concerned that a portion of the reported \$1.8 Billion in savings announced by Canadian Pacific might be achieved by reducing Norfolk Southern's customer sensitive shortline marketing and development personnel as well as service reductions to shortlines.

On a broader scale, we strongly urge that the STB look at how a combined Canadian Pacific and Norfolk Southern would affect current U.S. transcontinental traffic with the other class one rail roads. Would there be a diversion of traffic from U.S west coast ports and would east coast port traffic also be diverted? Would such a merger provoke other class one mergers and how would this ultimately affect customers of the rail industry?

Thank you for the opportunity to express our thoughts on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Steve DiPietro
President/CEO
Republic Short Line Railroad

David DiPietro
President/CEO
Republic Short Line Railroad