



## **Education and Public Works Committee**

**South Carolina House of Representatives**

*P.O. BOX 11867 TELEPHONE: 734-3053*

**Room 429, Blatt Building  
Columbia, S.C. 29211**

**December 23, 2015**

**The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott III, Chairman  
United States 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**

**Dear Chairman Elliott and Surface Transportation Board Members:**

**I am the Chairwoman of the South Carolina House Education and Public Works Committee. My Committee handles all matters involving transportation policy before the South Carolina House of Representatives. My purpose in writing is to express my grave concerns regarding the proposed attempt by Canadian Pacific Railway to takeover Norfolk Southern Corporation.**

**My apprehension is multifaceted. Norfolk Southern is critical to transportation to and from the Port of Charleston and throughout this State. South Carolina has invested considerable resources in developing infrastructure at the Port based on an ongoing relationship with Norfolk Southern. Our investment includes the successful development of an Inland Port for the service of a BMW plant in Upstate South Carolina. Norfolk Southern has a significant investment both in employees and rail tracks throughout South Carolina. A change of this magnitude threatens both the employment stability of this region and the critical transport of goods by businesses in our State. Takeover by Canadian Pacific Railway will immediately call into question further expenditures by the State in supporting infrastructure, especially in view of the statements made by officials of Canadian Pacific Railway proposing reductions in Norfolk Southern employment and facilities.**

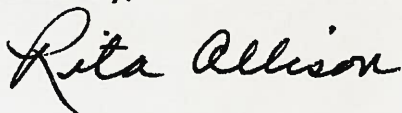
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**Clearly, concern exists in the ceding of domestic control to a foreign entity over a vital artery for our State and National economy. It is my request that you give further serious consideration to this matter and give sufficient weight to the potential adverse repercussions that this takeover forebodes.**

**Thank you for your gracious consideration of my request.**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rita Allison". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

**Rita Allison, Chairwoman**

**RA/jhm/December/23/15/1,2**