



TOWN OF NORTH WILKESBORO

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Office of the Mayor

February 5, 2016

Chairman Daniel R. Elliott, III
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-000

2016 FEB 22 AM 9:29
OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN

RE: Norfolk Southern Railroad vs Canadian Pacific Hostile Takeover Bid

Dear Chairman Elliott:

I am writing to you today in support of Norfolk Southern Railway Corporation and opposition to the hostile merger attempt by Canadian Pacific Railway. Norfolk Southern Corporation and its short line operators are a strong economic development partner operating 19 miles of track within Wilkes County, North Carolina, including 3 miles of track within the town of North Wilkesboro and its extra-territorial jurisdiction.

Our county has three (3) of its largest employers that are dependent on Norfolk Southern and its short line operators dependable service and community partnership. This partnership includes recruiting new business and industry to our community and increasing our tax base. Without the support of Norfolk Southern, the effects could be detrimental for our economic growth and development efforts.

Sincerely,


Robert L. Johnson

Mayor

Town of North Wilkesboro
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