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JEREMY R. FERGUSON
President

March 3, 2026

Member of Congress,

On behalf of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers – Transportation Division (“SMART-TD”), the nation’s largest railroad union, I write to express our support for the proposed merger between Union Pacific Railroad and Norfolk Southern Corporation.

SMART-TD evaluates every merger based on how it will affect our members’ jobs, livelihoods, and long-term stability. While a unified, transcontinental railroad has the potential to support sustained infrastructure investment, expand network capacity, and improve service reliability, past rail mergers have too often failed to deliver job security for railroad workers. That history has informed SMART-TD’s careful and deliberate approach to this transaction.

Following extensive negotiations, SMART-TD reached a historic agreement with Union Pacific that provides extraordinary job protections for employees in train and yardmaster service. Under this agreement, Union Pacific has committed that employees of both Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern will not face involuntary furloughs, guaranteeing job protection for the duration of their careers. This level of protection is unprecedented in modern rail consolidations and represents a meaningful departure from the uncertainty that has accompanied prior transactions.

These protections provide meaningful reassurance to railroad workers and their families in your state and across the country. Our members are the same working men and women constituents you represent, and they depend on stable, family sustaining railroad jobs to support their communities and local economies. This agreement is the product of sustained, constructive dialogue between SMART-TD and Union Pacific, and demonstrates that genuine labor-management engagement can advance operational goals while safeguarding the workers who keep freight rail moving.

Beyond workforce stability, this merger presents significant opportunities to strengthen freight mobility nationwide. The creation of the nation’s first coast-to-coast railroad would expand service options, improve network fluidity, reduce truck congestion on taxpayer funded highways, and support long term economic growth

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Because of the strong workforce protections secured, the stability they provide to thousands of railroad families, and the broader public benefits anticipated by the transaction, SMART-TD will be conveying its support for the merger before the Surface Transportation Board. We respectfully urge your support for this transaction and remain committed to ensuring that an approved merger proceeds safely, strengthens freight service and economic growth, and protects the jobs and livelihoods of the railroad workers you represent.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy R. Ferguson', written in a cursive style.

Jeremy R. Ferguson
President – Transportation Division