

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 13, 2022

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The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
United States Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

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Office of Proceedings
January 14, 2022
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Dear Chairman Oberman:

CSX Corp. (CSX) has proposed acquiring the New England assets of Pan Am Railways, Inc. (Pan Am), an acquisition which would increase CSX's market share of freight rail in Connecticut. CSX has proposed rail improvements and other market practices as part of the merger.

The Surface Transportation Board (STB) has the option of rejecting or approving the merger. Our intent is not to take a position on the STB's ultimate decision on the application. Rather, we urge you to ensure that this merger will not negatively impact existing freight lines in Connecticut should the STB allow the merger to move forward. If necessary, the STB should impose conditions on CSX to ensure it maintains prices on and service to existing lines.

If the STB is considering approval, it should include mandatory, clear conditions that ensure fair pricing of – and open access to – freight and passenger rail service in the Northeast. It should also require as a condition of such approval the proposed infrastructure upgrades by CSX. In addition, the STB should include conditions that ensure CSX will maintain service to businesses currently served by Pan Am's freight lines, such as the Springfield Terminal. Finally, the STB should also require written assurances from CSX of the steps it will take to properly maintain the rail lines and bridges currently maintained by Pan Am.

These guarantees from CSX will help assure existing freight rail users in Connecticut and across the Northeast that they will have fair access to rail shipping. Thank you for your consideration as you prepare to issue a final decision.

Sincerely,



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senate



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Senate