

State Representative
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COLORADO
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
State Capitol
Denver
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Chair:
Education Committee
Member:
Agriculture, Water & Natural
Resources Committee

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ENTERED

Office of Chief Counsel

August 28, 2026

Part of
Public Record

August 13, 2026

Surface Transportation Board
Washington, DC

Re: Union Pacific–Norfolk Southern Merger — Public-Interest Considerations for Colorado's Tennessee Pass Rail Corridor

Dear Members of the Surface Transportation Board:

I write as the Colorado State Representative representing House District 26, which includes Eagle County and communities along the Tennessee Pass rail corridor, regarding the proposed merger between Union Pacific Railroad and Norfolk Southern.

I urge the Board to include, as a condition of any merger approval, a requirement that Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern work collaboratively with the State of Colorado, affected local governments, and community stakeholders to explore potential future public uses of the Tennessee Pass corridor. This process should build on the 1996 Heart of the Rockies Historic Corridor Trail Feasibility Study, evaluate opportunities for railbanking, and reassess the corridor's potential for trail and other compatible public uses.

The Tennessee Pass corridor is an extraordinary asset with significant historical, recreational, environmental and economic importance to the communities I represent and to Colorado as a whole. Decisions about its future could have lasting consequences for Eagle County, neighboring communities and future generations. Those most directly affected deserve a meaningful role in considering the corridor's long-term possibilities.

This is a measured request. I am not asking the Board to require abandonment of the corridor, predetermine its future use or foreclose potential transportation needs. Rather, I am asking that, as a condition of the merger, the railroads commit to a transparent, good-faith planning process with Colorado communities regarding the future of this important public asset.

A merger of this magnitude presents an opportune moment to address the long-term stewardship of a corridor that has remained largely dormant for decades. Requiring collaborative planning

would advance the public interest while preserving flexibility for the railroads, the state, and affected communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Meghan Lukens".

Meghan Lukens
State Representative
House District 26