

12/18/25

SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDERS OPPOSING UP-NS

- **Rail Customers & Railroads** The merger has drawn strong opposition from shipper groups including the [Rail Customer Coalition](#), [American Chemistry Council](#) (ACC), and [ACC member CEOs](#), as well as from [other railroads](#), all of whom warn that reduced competition will lead to higher prices and degraded service.
- **Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division** representing 53% of UP-NS' workforce opposed their merger. "This debt-ridden tie-up won't make rail more competitive with trucks as merger proponents claim," said BLET National President Mark Wallace in a [press release](#), Dec. 17, 2025
- **Teamster** Union opposed the UP-NS' merger in a joint [statement](#) its leaders said: "Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern have worrying histories when it comes to protecting workers and communities. This includes causing a shocking number of accidents on the tracks, like the catastrophe in East Palestine, as well as trying to give away American jobs to Mexican rail crews. They have given us every reason to believe these problems would only grow worse if the merger is approved under its proposed terms. It's time for Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern to get serious and do right by our members. Until they do, the Teamsters will do everything in our power to block this harmful merger." Dec. 17, 2025
- **10 Democrats Legislators (on Senate and House Transportation Committee) led by Sen. Warrner** sent [letter](#) to UP CEO, and other key donors, questioning UP's donation to Trump's ballroom in light of pending regulatory review, Dec. 3, 2025
- **National Association of Waterfront of Waterfront Employers** opposed the merger in a [letter](#) to the STB, Dec. 1, 2025
- **Attorneys General** from nine red states (FL, IA, KS, MS, MT, OH, ND, SD, TN) have sent a [letter](#) to the Surface Transportation Board urging a "thorough and exacting" review of the merger. Nov. 14, 2025
 - **Coverage from the Wall Street Journal:** [Several State Attorneys General Oppose Railroad Merger](#)
- **54 Republican legislative leaders from 24 states** have sent a [letter](#) to the STB expressing concerns about the UP-NS merger and "its long-term impact on competition, service reliability, and the cost of doing business in America." Nov. 17, 2025
 - **Coverage from the Northern Ag Network:** [State Lawmakers Warn STB Rail Merger Could Raise Costs and Reduce Competition](#)
- **Conservative Voices** - Editorials weighing in on the merger from conservative voices, including former Trump advisors:
 - **Daniel Turner, Founder & Executive Director of Power The Future:** [TownHall: The Mega-Rail Merger That Could Derail American Energy Dominance](#)

- **Steve Cortes, President of League of American Workers and Former Senior Adviser to President Trump and VP JD Vance:** [Daily Examiner: *When railroads get too big, America gets run over*](#)
- **Tomas Philipson, Former Acting Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Trump:** [Washington Times: *Don't allow the Union Pacific-Norfolk Southern merger*](#)
- **60 Trade organizations** express their concerns in a [letter](#) to the STB, Nov. 24, 2025
- **18 Senators** penned a [letter](#) stressing the need to ensure competition in the rail industry and the potential impacts on U.S. agricultural producers.
 - [Sen. Hoeven news release, Oct. 31, 2025](#)
- **40 CEOs of chemical manufacturing companies** express concerns about the UP-NS merger in a [letter](#) to President Trump, on Oct. 16, 2025.
- **Rail Customer Coalition** opposed in a [letter](#) to the STB UP-NS merger, Sept 10, 2025
- **International Warehouse Logistics Association** opposed the UP-NS merger with a [press release](#), Aug. 16, 2025
- **Transport Workers Union** [reportedly](#) opposed the merger, The Guardian Aug. 25, 2025
 - **Coverage from The Guardian:** [Greater risk of toxic derailments if \\$85bn railroad merger is approved, warn unions](#)
- **Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen**, opposed the merger in a [press release](#), July 29, 2025
- **SMART-TD** labor union opposed the merger in a July 29 [press release](#) and changed [opinion](#) in September.