February 23, 2016

The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott III, Chairman
United States Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW, Suite 1220
Washington, DC 20423-001

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman, Vice Chair
United States Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW, Suite 1290
Washington, DC 20423-001

The Honorable Debra Miller
United States Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW, Suite 1240
Washington, DC 20423-001

Dear Chairman Elliott and Surface Transportation Board Members:

I am in opposition of the Canadian Pacific Railway's proposal to acquire Norfolk Southern Corporation. As president of Agricor, Inc., a corn processing facility, I am concerned about the impact that the merger will have on the rail freight service that my company depends on to service our customers.

Norfolk Southern continues to offer high levels of customer service through our local rail yard. It has benefited our business with its cost efficiency and customer service. The merger with Canadian Pacific with the proposed changes, which may include limited service or total closure of the local switching yard, will cost our company future revenue with the loss of customers who depend on timely and efficient delivery of our products through the rail system. Loss of business will impact our company, our employees, and community in a negative way.
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If the merger should go forward, we are apprehensive about other mergers in the rail system that would further limit opportunities even more and increase costs to our company.

I urge you to thoroughly review the proposal in regard to economic benefits, rail pricing competitiveness, and its overall impact on small businesses.

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Wickes
President, Agricor, Inc.