**WASHINGTON, D.C. —** The American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (**AFPM**), alongside the Alliance for Chemical Distribution (**ACD**), American Chemistry Council (**ACC**), the Fertilizer Institute (**TFI**) and the National Industrial Transportation League (**NITL**), filed joint comments with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) urging the Board to reject the proposed Union Pacific-Norfolk Southern merger. The groups argue the merger would further consolidate an already highly concentrated freight rail system and fail to deliver the competitive benefits required to justify the transaction, while also emphasizing the importance of ensuring shippers have a meaningful voice throughout the merger review process.

**AFPM President and CEO, Chet Thompson** issued the following statement:

> *"America's refiners and petrochemical manufacturers depend on a competitive rail network, and the proposed Union Pacific-Norfolk Southern merger threatens to leave them with fewer choices, higher prices and greater service risks. Shippers deserve to have their concerns heard, whether they speak out individually or through associations like ours. The stakes are simply too high to dismiss them."*

For more information on the importance of freight rail to the U.S. energy and petrochemical sectors and the decline of both quality service and competition in the freight rail space, see these AFPM resources:

- Why freight rail competition matters to American energy manufacturers and consumers
- AFPM urges STB to reject latest rail merger application, citing competition concerns
- Continued consolidation of U.S. Class 1 freight rail
- Reciprocal switching needed to address lack of freight rail competition & years of poor service
- Freight rail in America: Can a market be 'free' if there's almost no competition?
- Freight rail reform: Moving America's economy

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Media Contact:

Ericka Perryman

media@afpm.org

202.457.0480

About AFPM:

The American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM) is the leading trade association representing the makers of the fuels that keep us moving, the petrochemicals that are the essential building blocks for modern life, and the midstream companies that get our feedstocks and products where they need to go. We make the products that make life better, safer and more sustainable — we make progress.

Topics

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