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February 24, 2022

To Members of the Surface Transportation Board

RE: Support for the Merger of Canadian Pacific with Kansas City Southern Railroad

We respectfully submit this letter of support for the merger of Canadian Pacific with Kansas City Southern railroad, allowing the alignment of our interest in full support of the Southern Rail Commission's proposal for passenger rail along the I-20 Corridor. This proposed service will connect our communities in Northern Louisiana to new regions and economies in Dallas-Fort Worth and Atlanta – and beyond to Washington, D.C., and New York City through connections with Amtrak's Texas Eagle, City of New Orleans, and Crescent trains.

We also fully support the partnerships anticipated local benefits between the freight and passenger rail community with Canadian Pacific as the future owner. Our region formed an engaged coalition of local officials and stakeholders that includes the Southern Rail Commission and the Ark-La-Tex Corridor Council who support this I-20 Corridor long-distance service.

Furthermore, the infrastructure bill recently approved by Congress commits new funding allocations for passenger rail that could potentially be available for any required capital investment, and previous studies have indicated that this economically viable route along the I-20 Corridor would require no subsidies for operations.

We request that you rule favorably on the merger of Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern as it moves our region one step closer to fulfilling the vision of connecting the I-20 Corridor with passenger rail service.

Thank you for your consideration,

David R. Rockett, Jr
Executive Director