

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION**

Full Committee
Nomination Hearing
Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 10:00 A.M.

DEMOCRATIC QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD

(Part II)

Ms. Michelle Schultz

COVER PAGE

SENATOR AMY KLOBUCHAR (D-MN)

Rail Merger. Senator Hoeven and I led a bipartisan group of senators in calling on the Surface Transportation Board to closely scrutinize the proposed merger and ensure long-term competition in the railroad industry.

- You mentioned in your testimony that in your role you must be “mindful of what best serves the long-term health and vitality of the national rail network.” How will you analyze the potential long-term and knock-on effects of the proposed merger?

Because the merger is a pending matter, I am unfortunately unable to answer your question as any comments about how I intend to analyze any specific aspect of the case and/or apply the standard of law in this case would be pre-decisional. What I can say is that I will be carefully reviewing all comments that are filed in the docket. I will also review the facts, pleadings, evidence and applicable law and will make a decision based upon the merits of the case that is in the best interest of the network.

Agricultural Shippers. Agricultural producers depend on reliable and competitive rail service to move their products to domestic and international markets. Agricultural shippers already face limited competitive options for rail service and further consolidation could compound these challenges.

- How do you plan to protect the interests of agricultural shippers going forward?

With all due respect to the question, again, the merger is a pending matter and is case of first impression, so I am unable to say how I plan to protect the interests of agricultural shippers going forward. What I can say is that I will be reviewing all the filed comments from all stakeholders, the pleadings, the applicable law and the evidence and will make a decision based upon the merits of the case. I will also be applying the principles set forth in the Rail Transportation Policy of the United States as enacted by Congress. I recognize the significance that this case will have on the national rail network and commit to making a decision that is in the best interest of the network.