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Congress of the United States
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July 31, 2012

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Public Record

Mr. Daniel R. Elliott
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: STB Docket No. FD 35654

Dear Chairman Elliott:

RailAmerica is the owner of the Missouri & Northern Arkansas Railroad (MNA), a short line railroad in my district. MNA operates almost 600 miles of track serving customers in both western Missouri and Arkansas. Genesee & Wyoming, Inc. has proposed to purchase RailAmerica, Inc., which would include MNA. Rail is an important part of the intermodal transportation system that serves the farmers, processors, businessmen, and consumers of my District.

During a time of sparse capital and unpredictable economic swings, it is important to avoid creating unnecessary regulatory burdens on our business communities. We should particularly support enterprises seeking to make significant capital investments in their businesses. Rail is a capital intensive business, requiring substantial investment in maintenance for continued service. Resolving any uncertainty about the ownership and control of the MNA will allow infrastructure investment to proceed more rapidly.

I support the purchase of RailAmerica, Inc. by Genesee & Wyoming, Inc., and look forward to an expeditious and smooth approval process that allows the MNA to plan for the future, and best serve the people of Missouri's 4th District.

Sincerely,

Vicky Hartzler