

JOHN W. OLVER
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2101

232787

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 30, 2012
Part of
Public Record

July 30, 2012

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

Subject: STB Docket No. FD 35654

Dear Chairman Elliott:

I am writing concerning the proposed acquisition of RailAmerica by Genesee & Wyoming (G&W). RailAmerica operates a short line railroad in my district and it is a vital rail connection for many of our shippers. I am writing to support this transaction and to ask that the Board handle the matter in the most expeditious manner possible.

I support the G&W acquisition for a number of reasons. First G&W has a proven track record of acquiring short lines, investing in them and developing long term growth opportunities. Their company began as a short line in 1899, and has been in this business ever since. They are in the short line business to run short lines.

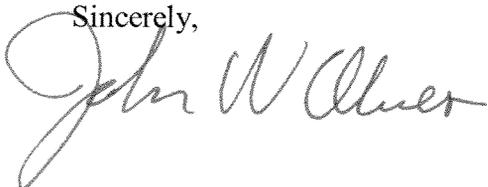
Second, G&W has the capacity to manage the RailAmerica properties. RailAmerica currently manages 45 railroads operating 7,500 track miles. G&W manages 63 railroads operating 5,400 miles. The scale of these companies is comparable which helps guarantee that G&W will have the experience and management expertise to bring about a smooth transition.

Third, like RailAmerica today, G&W's business model depends on each of its short lines operating as local railroads with local managers who have decision-making authority over their rail operations. That is the strength of the short line industry nationally and this acquisition will insure that strength going forward. It is also a key for superior customer service and sensitivity to local community concerns.

I support this transaction and I hope the STB will deal with it on an expedited basis in order to reduce uncertainty, limit the amount of time the short line freight railroad in my district is in limbo, and ensure the RailAmerica's capital management decision are not disrupted.

I appreciate your consideration of my views on the matter.

Sincerely,



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