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FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER CREDIT
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE
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232656

July 26, 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 short line railroads in Michigan and one of its primary lines is in my Congressional District. Marquette Rail, headquartered in Ludington, Michigan provides the only service in this area of the state. I know the railroad and they are a vital connection for many of our shippers that would otherwise be cut off from the national railroad network. I am writing to strongly 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 is one of the most successful short line operators in the country. They have 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 business ever since. They are in the short line business to run short lines. That is good for the current employees and customers of RailAmerica.

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 corporate bench strength to bring about a smooth transition. Again, that is important for RailAmerica's current employees and customers.

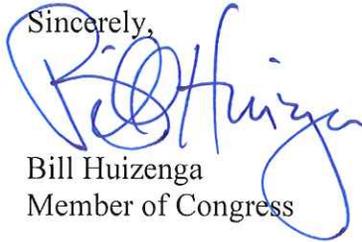
Third, like RailAmerica today, G&W's business model depends on each of its short lines operating as local railroads with local managers who have decision-making authority over their rail operations. That is the strength of the short line industry nationally and this acquisition will insure that strength going forward. That has been an important strength for Marquette Rail and has been a big plus for its customers in Michigan.

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I support this transaction and I hope the STB will deal with it on an expedited basis. A lengthy approval process will bring uncertainty to shippers and make it difficult for current RailAmerica management to plan future capital investment.

I appreciate your consideration of my views on the matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Huizenga". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Bill" and last name "Huizenga" clearly visible.

Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress