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ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

**TIM RYAN**  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
17TH DISTRICT, OHIO  
July 31, 2012

232735

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

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Office of Proceedings  
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Subject: STB Docket No. FD 35654

Dear Chairman Elliott:

Recently it has been brought to my attention that Genesee and Wyoming Inc. has announced the proposed acquisition of RailAmerica. I am writing you today to lend my support for this proposed transaction. As the US Representative for Ohio's 17<sup>th</sup> district, I can attest to the significant positive ramifications this can have for Northeast Ohio, with multiple lines within and around the region.

I have been impressed with the very strong focus of safety at Genesee & Wyoming. It is an industry leader in rail safety and this is a direct reflection of its commitment to provide superior service to the communities along its lines. I especially welcome this transaction for the opportunity it provides Genesee and Wyoming to improve their ability to capitalize important expansion projects that will serve industrial customers in Northeast Ohio and Western Pennsylvania with low-cost, short-distance rail freight service.

Since Genesee & Wyoming Inc. began operations in 1899, it has bought other short line railroads, invested in them, and developed long term growth opportunities. As you are no doubt aware of the recent natural gas exploration and development boom that is taking place in Northeast and Eastern Ohio, this work is as critical as ever to help us maintain and grow industrial sector jobs in our communities.

Genesee & Wyoming has built a track record of very successful acquisitions of other short line railroads in the United States, and I have every reason to believe there will be many positive benefits associated with its proposed acquisition of RailAmerica.

For these reasons, I strongly support this proposal and appreciate your consideration. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

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