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July 31, 2012

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 31, 2012
Part of
Public Record

Subject: STB Docket No. FD 35654

Dear Chairman Elliott:

On July 23, 2012 the proposed acquisition of RailAmerica by Genesee & Wyoming, Inc., was announced. Representing the 29th Congressional District of New York, I have worked with the Genesee & Wyoming short line railroads and believe this transaction will provide significant public benefits, not only in New York State, but also across the country.

My experiences working with Genesee & Wyoming have been very positive. This company is very focused on safety, the environment, and customer service. Their railroads provide the "first mile – last mile" of freight service to many areas of my district that otherwise would have no access to the national rail network without short line service. Safety is a key area of focus for Genesee & Wyoming Inc. with two of its railroads winning the 2011 Harriman rail safety awards. Their operations in New York demonstrate this commitment to safety.

This company has a very strong record of acquiring short lines throughout the United States, investing in the properties, and growing business. We need private partners like Genesee & Wyoming Inc. to help us grow industry and jobs in our state.

Genesee & Wyoming Inc. will definitely enhance the short line railroads now operated by RailAmerica. Within all relevant rules and regulations, I respectfully request prompt and fair consideration of this proposal by the Surface Transportation Board. Please feel free to contact Laura Ringdahl in my office at 202.225.3161 with any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Tom Reed
Member of Congress