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

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman  
Vice Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423

RE: STB Docket No. FD 35799, Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad, Inc. – Acquisition and Operation Exemption – Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation

Dear Chairman Elliott and Vice Chairman Begeman:

On behalf of the Rapid City Area Chamber of Commerce, which has been a bold voice of business in this region for more than 125 years, we would like to submit a letter of support for the acquisition and exemption for the Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad, Inc.

With more than 1,200 members, representing over 33,000 employees, the Chamber prides itself on promoting a healthy economic environment for both existing and new businesses. We are dedicated to our people, our community, and our progress. The Chamber's Board of Directors works closely with government and private partners, such as Genesee & Wyoming, to champion business issues. We understand this new railroad is expected to be headquartered in Rapid City and we look forward to working with Genesee & Wyoming to further develop an ongoing relationship between the railroad, our community and the many other South Dakota communities.

Rapid City has been served by rail service for many decades and we fully appreciate the value of rail service to our nation's transportation needs. Accordingly, we encourage the approval of the acquisition and exemption for the RCP&E to ensure that our community, and numerous other communities, producers, manufactures and consumers realize the benefits of their improved services-keeping our economy vibrant and innovative.

We respectfully ask for your expedited review and approval of this transaction.

Sincerely,

Linda Rabe, IOM, CCE  
President

Bryan S. Vulcan, P.E.  
Board Chair