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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1303

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,  
AND TECHNOLOGY

July 31, 2012

232665

Mr. Daniel R. Elliott III  
Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423

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

**RE: STB Docket No. FD 35654**

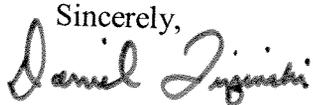
Dear Chairman Elliott:

I write to express my support for Genesee & Wyoming's proposed acquisition of RailAmerica and urge you to review this transaction on an expedited basis within the guidelines of the Board. Given the merits, I believe this transaction will strengthen the rail industry and ensure competitive options for the movement of freight throughout the country.

As you know, Illinois is the rail hub of the nation. Although our region is known for linking major U.S. rail carriers, Illinois is also host to a number of critical short lines. These carriers, like Genesee & Wyoming and RailAmerica, play an integral role in the national rail network. As northeast Illinois' most senior member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I believe this transaction will strengthen freight rail service by enhancing the ability of these railroads to undertake necessary infrastructure improvements and better serve customers in Illinois and across the nation.

For these reasons, I support this proposed transaction and urge its prompt consideration. I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to continuing to work with you as we preserve and strengthen America's leadership in freight railroading.

Sincerely,



DANIEL LIPINSKI  
Member of Congress