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AGRICULTURE  
Chairman, Subcommittee on  
Conservation, Energy, and Forestry  
EDUCATION & THE WORKFORCE  
NATURAL RESOURCES

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
July 31, 2012

232751

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

*RE: STB Docket No. FD 35654*

Dear Chairman Elliott:

It has recently been brought to my attention that Genesee & Wyoming Inc. has acquired RailAmerica. It has always been a pleasure working with the railroads owned by Genesee & Wyoming in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, and I write you in support of this transaction.

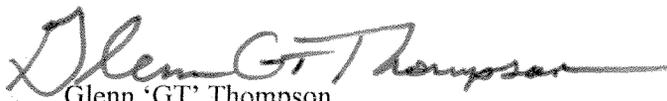
I have always been especially impressed with Genesee & Wyoming's focus on safety. It is an industry leader in rail safety, and this is a direct reflection in its commitment to provide superior service to the communities along its lines.

Since Genesee & Wyoming Inc. began operations in 1899, it has bought other short line railroads, invested in them, and developed long term growth opportunities. This work is absolutely critical to help us maintain and grow industrial sector employment in our communities.

Genesee & Wyoming understands the importance of the services a short line common carrier freight railroad provides to the communities and states it serves. Genesee & Wyoming's previous acquisitions have been successful, which leads me to believe that the acquisition of RailAmerica will follow suit.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you explore the option of an expedited review by the Surface Transportation Board.

Sincerely,

  
Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress

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