



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL A. MORIN, District 49
Committee on Health, Education and Welfare
Committee on Small Business

241659

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September 30, 2016

Chairman Daniel R. Elliott III
Vice Chairman Deb Miller
Member Ann D. Begeman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

RE: GENESEE & WYOMING INC. - ACQUISITION OF CONTROL EXEMPTION - PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY DOCKET NUMBER 36064

Dear Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Miller, and Member Begeman:

I represent the City of Woonsocket, RI, District 49 in the Rhode Island House of Representatives and serve as Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshall, and am writing you to today to ask that you carefully consider the ramifications of granting the above referenced petition without conditions.

Genesee & Wyoming, Inc. (GWI) has proposed to acquire control of the Providence and Worcester Railroad (PWRR), a local company with deep roots in the community and a history of working with local and state government.

As with any such acquisition it is unlikely that GWI will allow PWRR to retain its autonomy, and very likely that local staff levels will be reduced as the GWI seeks economies of scale.

In particular, the removal of local management raises concerns that at least two vital interests of the local and regional economy will be curtailed or abandoned, notably the Blackstone Valley Polar Express and the Boston Surface Railroad restoration of passenger service through the Valley.

The Blackstone Valley Polar Express serves over 20,000 passengers each year, many who travel hundreds of miles, generating much needed local revenue and interest in Woonsocket and Providence County.

180 ALLEN STREET, UNIT 202
WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND 02895

The Boston Surface Railroad is a private company that has been working with our local and state governments as well as PWRR for the last 3-4 years to re-establish passenger service between Worcester, MA, Woonsocket and Providence, RI. I cannot stress the importance of this endeavor the region in terms of economic benefit, social mobility and employment equity.

Both these operations require the cooperation of the PWRR as the sole entity capable of servicing them.

For that reason I would respectfully request that the Board grant Genesee's Petition conditionally upon continuing to service these vital interests.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Morin
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Woonsocket, RI 02895
401-265-0910

Cc: Parties of Record via Electronic Mail