

*The voice of Maine business*

STB Docket No. FD 35654

232678

VERIFIED STATEMENT

of

Dana Connors

on behalf of the

Maine State Chamber of Commerce

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
July 27, 2012  
Part of  
Public Record

My name is Dana Connors. I am the President of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, 125 Community Drive, Suite 101, Augusta, ME 04330-8010. I have served in this capacity since October of 1994.

On July 23 it was publicly announced the proposed acquisition of RailAmerica by Genesee & Wyoming Inc. Over the years I have worked with the Genesee & Wyoming short line railroad[s] in Maine.

My experiences working with Genesee & Wyoming has been very positive. Their railroads provide freight service to many areas of Maine that otherwise would have no access to the national rail network without short line service. Genesee & Wyoming has a very strong record of acquiring short lines throughout the United States, investing in the properties, and growing business. This result in safe, reliable rail freight services that help us grow industry and jobs in our state.

Safety is a key area of focus for Genesee & Wyoming Inc. Two of its railroads won the 2011 Harriman rail safety awards. Their operations in Maine demonstrate this commitment to safety.

The overall corporate focus of Genesee & Wyoming Inc. will definitely enhance the short line railroads now operated by RailAmerica. For these reasons, I strongly support this proposal, and ask for expedited review and approval of it by the Surface Transportation Board.

I, Dana Connors, declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the United States, that the foregoing is true and correct. Further, I certify that I am qualified and authorized to file this verified statement.



**Dana Connors, President**

**Maine State Chamber of Commerce**

**July 27, 2012**