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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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July 30, 2012

ENTERED

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

Office of Proceedings  
July 30, 2012  
Part of  
Public Record

Re: STB Docket No. FD 35654

Chairman Elliott:

On July 23, that Genesee & Wyoming Inc. announced the intention to acquire RailAmerica. I have worked with the Genesee & Wyoming short line railroad, which is the parent company of the Little Rock & Western, Fordyce & Princeton, and Arkansas Louisiana & Mississippi railroads. I believe this transaction may provide significant public benefits in Arkansas and across the country.

My experiences working with Genesee & Wyoming has been positive. Their railroads provide the "first mile – last mile" of freight service to many areas of Arkansas that otherwise would have no access to the national rail network without short line service. Genesee & Wyoming Inc. has demonstrated its commitment to safety with operations in Arkansas. In fact, two of its railroads won the 2011 Harriman rail safety awards.

This company has a long history acquiring short lines throughout the United States. Genesee & Wyoming anticipates this acquisition as an opportunity to help grow industry and jobs in Arkansas and across the country.

Genesee & Wyoming Inc. will enhance the short line railroads now operated by RailAmerica. I support this proposal, and ask for expedited review and approval of it by the Surface Transportation Board.

Thank you,

