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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

232680

Docket: FD 35654

VERIFIED STATEMENT  
OF  
Jeffrey C. Smith, Chairman  
House Ways and Means Committee  
Mississippi House of Representatives

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
July 26, 2012  
Part of  
Public Record

My name is Jeffrey C. Smith. I am Chairman of the Mississippi House Ways and Means Committee and a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives for twenty-one years. I represent the citizens of District 39 and the only district in Mississippi served by railroads owned by both Genesee & Wyoming, Inc. and Rail America.

On July 23, 2012, the acquisition of Rail America by Genesee & Wyoming, Inc. was publicly announced. For many years, I have worked with shortline railroads in my district, particularly the Columbus and Greenville Railway, now owned and operated by Genesee and Wyoming.

My experience working with Genesee & Wyoming, Inc. has been very positive. Their railroads provide a valuable freight service to many areas in Mississippi that otherwise would have no access to the national rail network without the shortline service they provide. Genesee & Wyoming, Inc. has a very strong record of acquiring shortlines throughout the United States, investing in properties, and growing business. This results in safe, reliable rail freight services that support growth in economic and industrial development, job creation, and service to our industry across Mississippi.

Rail freight service in my district across Mississippi is very important, and for the reasons stated herein, I strongly support this proposed acquisition, and ask for an expedited review and approval of the acquisition by the Surface Transportation Board.

I, Jeffrey C. Smith, 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.

Jeffrey C. Smith  
Member of Mississippi House of Representatives  
Chairman of Ways and Means Committee  
District 39  
July 26, 2012