

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2102

July 31, 2012

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

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Dear Chairman Elliott,

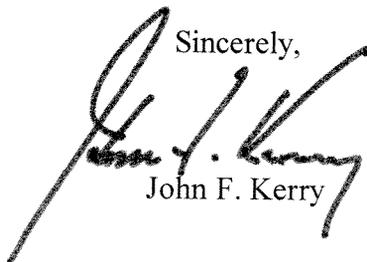
I am writing concerning the proposed acquisition of RailAmerica by Genesee & Wyoming (G&W). RailAmerica operates a short line railroad in Massachusetts providing a key service for our shipping industry that is not connected to the national railroad network. I hope this transaction will be approved and respectfully request that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) review and rule on this application as quickly as appropriate.

G&W has previously acquired other short lines, investing in them and developing long term growth opportunities. Acquiring will grow their business by adding 45 railroads operating 7,500 track miles to the 63 railroads operating 5,400 miles they already run.

This deal would increase G&W's capacity however, it is my understanding that they will continue to operate as they always have - with local managers who have decision-making authority over their rail operations. This is an important commitment that will help ensure better customer service and sensitivity to local community concerns.

I support this transaction and I hope the STB will deal with it on an expedited basis. Providing certainty to shippers, RailAmerica and G&W will provide a smoother transition and limit disruptions to short line freight railroads in Massachusetts. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry