



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT D. PHILLIPS, *District 51*
Secretary, Committee on Small Business
Committee on Corporations

241610

September 27, 2016

Chairman Daniel R. Elliott III
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
September 28, 2016
Part of
Public Record

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

Dear Chairman Elliott:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed acquisition of control of the Providence and Worcester Railroad (PWRR) by Genesee and Wyoming, Inc. (GWI).

Publicly available documents indicate that GWI and PWRR had substantially completed a deal as far back as August of 2016, yet two very important stakeholders the Boston Surface Railroad Company, Inc. (BSRC) which was granted Authority by your Board to operate passenger service on the PWRR lines, and the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council (BVTC) which retains the PWRR to operate seasonal excursion trains including the highly successful and popular Blackstone Valley Polar Express, have yet to be contacted by GWI management regarding a transition. Since the BSRC represents an expensive collaborative effort between itself, PWRR and all levels of government in our regions, and the BVTC a large revenue customer for PWRR this raises questions as to GWI's good faith interest in continuing these projects which are vital to the region's business and tourism economies, as well as interstate commerce. BSRC will be transporting commuters to jobs that will increase the economies in both Mass and RI, while Blackstone Valley Tourism brings people in from all over the northeast and as far as Oregon.

As the Representative for District 51 as well as the Secretary for the Rhode Island House of Representatives Small Business Committee I urge you and the Board to grant GWI's petition contingent upon its continuance of these services as mentioned.

If my further comment is needed I may be reached at rep-phillips@rilegislature.gov or (401) 762-2010.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Phillips

cc: Parties of Record via Email