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July 30, 2012

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

Subject: STB Docket No. FD 35654

Dear Chairman Elliott:

On July 23 it was publicly announced the proposed acquisition of RailAmerica by Genesee & Wyoming Inc. Representing the 7th Congressional District of Alabama, I have worked with the Genesee & Wyoming short line railroad[s] and believe this transaction will provide significant public benefits, not only in Alabama, but also across the country.

My experiences working with Genesee & Wyoming have been very positive. This company is very focused on safety, the environment, and customer service. Their railroads provide the "first mile - last mile" of freight service to many areas of Alabama that otherwise would have no access to the national rail network without short line service. Safety is a key area of focus for Genesee & Wyoming Inc and their operations in Alabama demonstrate this commitment.

This company has a very strong record of acquiring short lines throughout the United States, investing in the properties, and growing business. We need private partners like to help us grow industry and jobs in our state.

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

Sincerely,

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

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