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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 30, 2012

232663

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

Re: STB Docket No. FD 35654

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 30, 2012
Part of
Public Record

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATION, CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MINERAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,
FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TERRORISM, NONPROLIFERATION AND TRADE

Dear Chairman Elliott:

I write today regarding the proposed acquisition of RailAmerica (RA) by Genesee & Wyoming Inc. (GWI), which was publicly announced on July 23. The Genesee & Wyoming railroads have an important presence serving eastern and southeastern Ohio, and I strongly support this transaction.

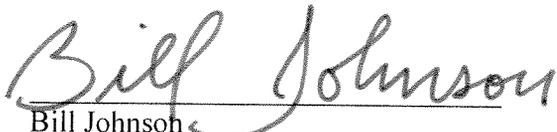
Genesee & Wyoming Inc. is a great partner in America's regional freight transportation network. Since the company began operations in 1899, it has worked to buy additional short line railroads, invest in them, and develop long term growth opportunities.

Approval of this acquisition will result in various public benefits. Genesee & Wyoming is an industry leader in rail safety, which will improve safety results for RA railroads as well. In addition, the transaction will enhance supply chains for GWI and RA's combined customer bases and the broader reach of the railroads will increase the likelihood for prospective industrial and manufacturing development opportunities located in nearby communities.

Genesee & Wyoming understands the importance of the services that a short line common carrier freight railroad provides to the communities and states it serves. Their railroads often provide the "first mile – last mile" of freight service to many areas that otherwise would have no access to the national rail network without short line service.

For these reasons, I support the proposed acquisition of RailAmerica by Genesee & Wyoming Inc. and respectfully request its expedited review and approval by the Surface Transportation Board. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,


Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

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