

David E. Lust

P.O. Box 8014
Rapid City, SD 57709
605-343-8261
rep.lust@state.sd.us

South Dakota House of Representatives - District 34

*Legislative Post Office
State Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota 57501*



March 4, 2014 **235616**

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

**ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
March 12, 2014
Part of
Public Record**

Dear Chairman Elliott:

My name is David Lust, and I am Majority Leader of the South Dakota State House of Representatives.

On January 2, 2014 Canadian Pacific announced the sale of the former Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern railroad line through South Dakota to Genesee & Wyoming Inc. In light of the impact the railroad industry has on the overall economy of South Dakota, I have taken a considerable interest in this sale.

All of information I have reviewed on Genesee & Wyoming is very positive. The company has a very long history of successfully running short line and regional freight railroads. It is recognized as having a very strong culture of safety, and is well regarded by its customers. I firmly believe this transaction will be beneficial to the State of South Dakota and our shipping community.

We need a company like Genesee & Wyoming to own and operate the former DM&E lines in South Dakota. I understand that Genesee & Wyoming wants to begin operations, following STB approval, by mid-year, 2014. It will be critical to establish these operations to serve our state's agricultural needs.

I respectfully ask for your expedited review and approval of this transaction.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Lust", written over the typed name.

David Lust
Majority Leader
South Dakota House of Representatives