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Agency of Transportation

241734

October 11, 2016

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
October 11, 2016
Part of
Public Record

Cynthia T. Brown, Chief
Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: *Genesee & Wyoming, Inc.—Acquisition of Control Exemption—Providence and Worcester Railroad Company*
STB Docket No. FD 36064

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing on behalf of the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), which is responsible to plan, develop, implement, and manage a statewide transportation network, including highways, bridges, railroads, airports, park-and-rides, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and public transportation facilities and services.

On August 31, 2016, Genesee & Wyoming Inc. (“G&W”) filed with the Surface Transportation Board a Petition for Exemption to acquire control of Providence and Worcester Railroad Company (“P&W”), a Class III railroad.

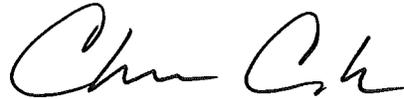
VTrans has worked with G&W-owned railroads on increasing freight service in Vermont. We have a lot of smaller shippers and receivers in Vermont that enjoy rail service or are seeking to have access to rail service. We look forward to working with G&W-owned railroads to provide freight service to these smaller shippers and receivers to help us reach our goal of reducing the use of our highways to move freight and increase the use of railroad lines in Vermont.

I understand that G&W will continue to operate P&W as a separate railroad. However, I am sure the overall corporate focus, professionalism and the commitment to safety and service will definitely be beneficial for the P&W. We look forward to continued efforts on services through the Gateway Project working with other rail carriers within Vermont to make regional services better.

Cynthia T. Brown
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For these reasons, I support the G&W petition and control of P&W, and ask for expedited review and approval of it by the Surface Transportation Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Cole". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and the last name "Cole" clearly distinguishable.

Christopher Cole
Secretary of Transportation

cc: Service List

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

STB DOCKET NO. FD 36064

**GENESEE & WYOMING, INC.—ACQUISITION OF CONTROL EXEMPTION—
PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served copies of the foregoing comment letter to the Board on behalf of the State of Vermont Agency of Transportation by United States mail, postage prepaid, on the following persons:

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Dated: October 11, 2016



Florence E. Smith
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