



THOMAS F. PATTON  
MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

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

STB Docket No. FD 35654

VERIFIED STATEMENT

of

Senator Thomas F. Patton

My name is Senator Thomas F. Patton. I am the State Senator of Ohio's 24<sup>th</sup> Senate District and have served in this capacity since 2008.

Before my tenure as State Senator I served in the Ohio House of Representatives since 2003. In addition, I currently serve as Majority Floor Leader and Senate Highways and Transportation Committee Chairman.

I am writing in support of the recently announced proposed acquisition of RailAmerica, Inc. by Genesee & Wyoming Inc. (GWI). I have had a very constructive working relationship with short line railroads owned by Genesee & Wyoming here in Ohio and my experiences have been very positive.

Genesee & Wyoming is a valued partner in our regional freight transportation network. Their railroads provide freight services to many areas of Ohio that otherwise would have no access to the national rail network. They have a strong record of investing in the properties they acquire and contributing to the economic development and retention efforts in the regions where they are located.

Additionally, I have been impressed with GWI's strong focus on safety. They are an industry leader in rail safety and this is a direct reflection of their commitment to their employees as well as the communities they serve.

For these reasons, I strongly support this proposal and respectfully request expedited review and approval by the Surface Transportation Board.

I, Thomas F. Patton, declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the United States, that the foregoing is true and correct. Further, I certify that I am qualified and authorized to file this verified statement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas F. Patton".

Thomas F. Patton

Majority Floor Leader

Ohio Senate District 24

July 30, 2012