



Representative Fred W. Romkema

South Dakota State House of Representatives

District 31

February 25, 2014

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

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The Honorable Ann D. Begeman, Vice Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
March 6, 2014
Part of
Public Record

Subject: STB Docket No. FD 35799, Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad, Inc.

Dear Chairman Elliott and Vice Chairman Begeman:

My name is Fred Romkema, and I am Chairman of the Appropriations Committee 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. This rail line is the only one in South Dakota that crosses our entire state, east to west. It handles grain, cement, and ethanol, along with many other commodities, that are very important to the South Dakota Economy.

After consideration, I firmly believe this transaction will be highly beneficial to the State of South Dakota and the shipping community. The new railroad, the Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad (RCP&E), is expected to be headquartered in the state, allowing for development of a very close relationship between the railroad and its customers. I understand that the proposed transaction does not include any new interchange commitments, which will give South Dakota rail customers the maximum flexibility to attain competitive rail service.

I understand that Genesee & Wyoming wants to begin operations, following STB approval, by mid-year 2014. This is critical. The new operation needs to be in place before the grain harvest season begins.

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

Very truly yours,



Fred W. Romkema, Representative
District 31

District 31 Address • 240 Fairway Drive • Spearfish, SD 57783 • 605-722-1432

Session Address • State Capitol • 500 East Capitol Ave • Pierre, SD 57501

(c) 605-645-2880 • (e) rep.romkema@state.sd.us