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Minnehaha

Tim Rave

Senate Majority Leader

Committees

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February 25, 2014

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

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

Subject: STB Docket No. FD 35799

Dear Chairman Elliott and Vice Chairman Begeman:

As Majority Leader of the South Dakota State Senate, I am pleased to write in recommendation of Genesee & Wyoming Inc.

In January 2014, Canadian Pacific announced that Genesee & Wyoming (G&W) had intent to purchase the former Dakota Minnesota & Eastern line in South Dakota. This line is highly important to the South Dakota economy and I have taken considerable interest in this sale.

Genesee & Wyoming has done well to provide information about their intentions in operating this line. G&W has a successful history of running short line and regional freight railroads. It is also recognized as having a strong stance on safety and customer service, which shows in their ability to cater to shippers.

G&W is the type of company needed to operate the former DME across South Dakota. It is my understanding that G&W hopes to begin operations by mid-year, 2014. With the approval of the Surface Transportation Board, G&W could begin operations in South Dakota before the beginning of harvest season, a critical time for South Dakotans and our economy. I respectfully ask for your timely review and approval of this transaction on an exempt basis.

Sincerely,

Majority Leader Timothy Rave

District 25

State Senate