



House of Representatives
Mark Mickelson

235617

March 3, 2014

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
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Re: STB Docket No. FD 35799, Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad, Inc.

Dear Vice Chairman Begeman:

My name is Mark Mickelson, and I am a member of the South Dakota State House of Representatives.

Since the announcement of the sale of the Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern line on January 2, 2014 by Canadian Pacific to an affiliate of Genesee & Wyoming Inc., I have taken a very serious interest in this situation. 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.

This sale will be greatly beneficial to the State of South Dakota. Genesee & Wyoming has established a new freight railroad, the Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad (RCP&E) that is expected to provide a high level of attention to the needs of the customers it will serve in South Dakota. 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.

Genesee & Wyoming railroads across the country have a long history of safety and efficiently meeting their customers' rail freight needs. I have no reason to expect anything different from the RCP&E in South Dakota.

For all these reasons, I respectfully ask for your expedited review and approval of this important transaction.

Very truly yours,

Mark Mickelson