



REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN R. CRONIN

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

SOUTH DAKOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 23 - CAMPBELL, EDMUNDS, FAULK, HAND, MCPHERSON, POTTER, SPINK & WALWORTH COUNTIES

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

236048

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
May 15, 2014
Part of
Public Record

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

Dear Chairman Elliott:

The South Dakota economy depends on grain, and efficient, safe and reliable rail service is very important for South Dakota grain shippers to allow them to reach their markets. The former Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern rail line runs across our state, and is a critical part of the rail network that supports South Dakota grain shippers. So, with considerable interest I have followed the announced sale of the DM&E lines in South Dakota by Canadian Pacific to an affiliate of Genesee & Wyoming Inc.

After careful 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. As a subsidiary of Genesee & Wyoming, I am sure the RCP&E will focus on safety and customer service consistent with G&W's other operations across the United States.

Getting this new railroad up and running as quickly as possible will be very important. Currently the line is in limbo, operated by Canadian Pacific but clouded with the uncertainties that accompany a pending sale. Allowing the RCP&E to start its new operations before the harvest season begins will be extremely helpful for the customers it will serve, and for the entire state of South Dakota.

I respectfully ask for your prompt approval of this transaction on an exempt basis. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

RESIDENCE

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DURING SESSION

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