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Congress of the United States
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July 31, 2012

232698

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 31, 2012
Part of
Public Record

Subject: STB Docket No. FD 35654

Dear Chairman Elliott:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed acquisition of RailAmerica, Inc. by Genesee & Wyoming, Inc.

I believe that small railroad companies have an important role to play in the future of American transportation in the greater Kansas City region. Based on the importance of efficient freight railroad service, and the need for long-range planning certainty in this industry, I would urge you to review the matter in the most expeditious manner possible.

The two railroads that provide service to rail customers in an around the greater Kansas City economic region are the Kyle Railroad, and the Missouri and Northern Arkansas Railroad. Both will be encompassed within this transaction, and both are owned by RailAmerica. Much of the traffic that originates or terminates on these railroads travels through the important rail yards and hubs of the greater Kansas City area.

I believe that if the Kyle Railroad and Missouri and Northern Arkansas become a part of the G&W system, G&W will continue to make necessary investments in infrastructure to develop the long term opportunities, particularly when it comes to transporting Kansas grain to market, and fuel to Kansas City area power facilities.

I support this transaction and I hope the STB will deal with it on an expedited basis. Unnecessary regulatory delays in this process will create uncertainty for the Kansas agricultural transportation marketplace.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kevin Yoder
Member of Congress