



STB Docket No. FD 36064

VERIFIED STATEMENT

of

Richard J. Spallone

on behalf of the

Atlantic Forest Products, LLC

My name is **Richard J. Spallone**. I am the **Executive Vice President/Member of Atlantic Forest Products, LLC, 240 W. Dickman St, Baltimore, MD 21230**. I have served in this capacity since **September of 2003**.

AFP is a wholesale distributor of building materials with regional offices and distribution points along the east coast of the US. Our annual sales are in excess of \$250 million and we have over 60 employees in 7 states. We have been in business since 1991 and rely heavily on rail transportation for our business model.

On August 31, 2016 Genesee & Wyoming Inc. ("G&W") filed with the Surface Transportation Board a Petition for Exemption to acquire control of Providence and Worcester Railroad Company ("P&W"), a Class III railroad operating in **Massachusetts**].

My experiences working with G&W-owned railroads have been very positive. G&W-owned railroads provide freight service to many areas of **Massachusetts** that otherwise would have no access to the national rail network without short line service. Genesee & Wyoming Inc. has a very strong record of acquiring short lines throughout the United States, investing in the properties, and growing business. In my experience, G&W-owned short lines provide safe, reliable rail freight service that helps support jobs in our state.

I understand that G&W will continue to operate P&W as a separate railroad. However, I am sure the overall corporate focus, professionalism and the commitment to safety and service will definitely be beneficial for the P&W.

For these reasons, I strongly support G&W's petition and control of P&W, and ask for expedited review and approval of it by the Surface Transportation Board.

I, **Richard J. Spallone**, declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the United States, that the foregoing is true and correct. Further, I certify that I am qualified and authorized to file this verified statement.



Richard J. Spallone

Executive V.P./Member

Atlantic Forest Products Ayer, MA 10432

October 4, 2016

cc: All parties of record