



SENATOR COREY W. BROWN

SOUTH DAKOTA SENATE - DISTRICT 23

CAMPBELL, EDMUNDS, FAULK, HAND, MCPHERSON, POTTER, SPINK & WALWORTH COUNTIES

February 25, 2014

235618

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 Pro Tempore of the South Dakota State Senate, I am pleased to write a recommendation for Genesee & Wyoming Inc. in their acquisition of the Dakota Minnesota & Eastern mainline.

South Dakota crop growers depend on safe, efficient and reliable rail service to get their grain to markets. The former Dakota Minnesota & Eastern mainline across South Dakota is critical in moving our grains, the lifeblood of the state's economy. The importance of this line has warranted my interest in the sale of this line to the Genesee & Wyoming Inc. (G&W).

After much consideration, I believe this transaction will be only a benefit to South Dakota and its shippers. The local operations of the G&W subsidiary, Rapid City Pierre & Eastern (RCP&E), will allow for the state to have a close working relationship with the railroad and its shippers. I am confident that RCP&E will operate with a focus on safety and customer service that echoes the mission of G&W across the country.

The timely approval of the sale to G&W will bring stability to our producers knowing that they will soon be working with a well-known company that focuses on the needs of their customers. I respectfully ask for the Surface Transportation Board to approve this transaction on an exempt basis.

Sincerely,

Pro Tempore Corey Brown
District 23
State Senate

RESIDENCE

316 S POTTER STREET
GETTYSBURG, SD 57442
(605) 769-0540 - CELL
(605) 765-2296 - HOME
COREYWBROWN@GMAIL.COM

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE SENATE

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500 E CAPITOL AVENUE
PIERRE, SD 57501
(605) 769-0540 - CELL
(605) 773-3821 - CAPITOL
SEN.BROWN@STATE.SD.US

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