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July 31, 2012

ENTERED

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

Office of Proceedings
July 31, 2012
Part of
Public Record

Subject: STB Docket No. FD 35654

Dear Chairman Elliott:

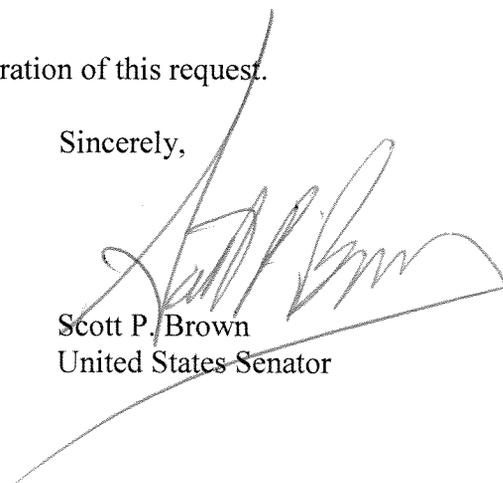
I am writing regarding the proposed acquisition of RailAmerica by Genesee & Wyoming (G&W). It is important that this matter be reviewed in an expedient manner.

Since 1995, RailAmerica has operated New England Central Railroad, which services western Massachusetts. This line provides transport for commodities such as lumber, printing paper, foodstuffs and other important materials and products. This connection is vital for many shippers that would otherwise be separated from the national railroad network.

As our economy continues to recover, the strength of our freight rail industry is invaluable. An unnecessarily lengthy approval process could create uncertainty for shippers, and make it difficult for current RailAmerica management to plan future capital investment. A timely review will reduce such uncertainty and limit the amount of time the short line freight railroads in Massachusetts are in limbo.

I greatly appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Scott P. Brown
United States Senator