



235840

March 20, 2014

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
April 8, 2014
Part of
Public Record

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman
Vice Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington DC 20423

Re: STB Docket No. FD 35799, Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad, Inc. – Acquisition and Operation Exemption – Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation

Dear Chairman Elliott and Vice Chairman Begeman:

On behalf of the Greater Rapid City Area Economic Development Corporation, it is our pleasure to submit this letter of strong support for this acquisition and exemption.

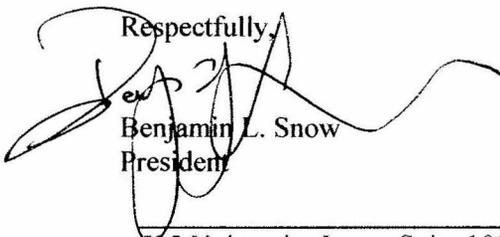
The economic vitality of our region depends on dependable rail service over the former Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern (DM&E) rail line through South Dakota, particularly as it connects so many of our vital industries (both industrial and agricultural) to their customers throughout the country. On January 2, 2014 Canadian Pacific announced the sale of this line to Genesee & Wyoming Inc.

All of the information we have reviewed relative to Genesee & Wyoming has been very positive and we have been impressed by their proactive community and business outreach efforts. The company has a very long history of successfully running short line and regional freight railroads, is recognized as having a very strong culture of safety, and is well regarded by its customers.

The new railroad, operating as the Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad (RCP&E) is expected to be headquartered in Rapid City, allowing for development of a very close ongoing relationship between the railroad, its South Dakota communities and its customers.

We understand that Genesee & Wyoming wants to begin operations, following STB approval, by mid-year, 2014. This is critical to allow the new operation to be in place before the grain harvest season begins. We respectfully ask for your expedited review and approval of this transaction.

Respectfully,



Benjamin L. Snow
President



Steve Conzet
Chairman