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July 30, 2012

232671

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 30, 2012
Part of
Public Record

Subject: STB Docket No. FD 35654

Dear Chairman Elliott:

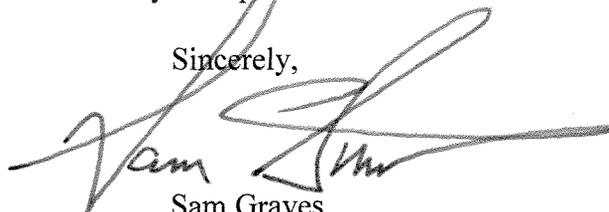
I am contacting you regarding the proposed acquisition of RailAmerica, Inc. by Genesee & Wyoming, Inc. (G&W). I would like to express my support for this transaction and ask that the Board review the matter in an expeditious manner.

While there are no G&W short lines currently in Missouri, I am aware of the company through my history of work in support of America's small freight railroads. I support the G&W acquisition for a number of reasons. First G&W has a proven track record of acquiring short lines, investing in infrastructure, and developing long term growth opportunities. Second, their company began as a short line in 1899, and has stayed true to its small railroad roots. Third, they have the size and management ability to execute a smooth transition.

I support railroads because they are a means to an end. That end is to efficiently move Missouri's raw materials and manufactured goods to market. I hope the STB will deal with this transaction on an expedited basis. An expedited review will reduce uncertainty and limit the amount of time the short line freight railroad is in limbo.

I appreciate your consideration of my views on the matter. Please contact me or JP Mason of my staff at 202-225-7041 if you require additional information.

Sincerely,



Sam Graves
Member of Congress