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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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July 30, 2012

232695

Mr. 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 writing concerning the proposed acquisition of RailAmerica by Genesee & Wyoming (G&W). Over the years I have seen first-hand the critical link that short line railroads have provided for many of our shippers that would otherwise be cut off from the national railroad network. This connection is vital to businesses and local jobs in Illinois and across the country. I am writing to support this transaction and to ask that the Board handle the matter in the most expeditious manner possible.

I support the G&W acquisition for a number of reasons. First, G&W is one of the most successful short line operators in the country. They have a proven track record of acquiring short lines, investing in them and developing long term growth opportunities. Their company began as a short line in 1899, and has been in this business ever since. They are in the short line business to run short lines.

Second, G&W has the capacity to manage the RailAmerica properties. RailAmerica currently manages 45 railroads operating 7,500 track miles. G&W manages 63 railroads operating 5,400 miles. The scale of these companies is comparable which helps guarantee that G&W will have the experience and management expertise to bring about a smooth transition.

Third, like RailAmerica today, G&W's business model depends on each of its short lines operating as local railroads with local managers who have decision-making authority over their rail operations. That is the strength of the short line industry nationally and this acquisition will insure that strength going forward. It is also a key for superior customer service and sensitivity to local community concerns.

I support this transaction and I hope the STB will deal with it on an expedited basis. A lengthy approval process will bring uncertainty to shippers and make it difficult for current RailAmerica management to plan future capital investment.

I appreciate your consideration of my views on the matter.

Sincerely,


Danny Davis
Member of Congress