

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 31, 2012

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

Subject: STB Docket No. FD 35654

232725

ENTERED

Office of Proceedings
July 31, 2012
Part of
Public Record

Dear Chairman Elliott:

I write to request you give all due consideration to the recently proposed acquisition of RailAmerica by Genesee & Wyoming, Incorporated. I have worked extensively with the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad, which is owned by Genesee & Wyoming, and have been impressed by their commitment to providing safe and efficient freight rail service to New Hampshire.

The St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad serves rural northern New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont. While the Northern Forest region in these states has insufficient coverage from other modes of transportation, this short-line railroad enables local industries to access national and international markets at competitive rates. Genesee & Wyoming recognizes the critical nature of freight service in this region and I have worked closely with the company on initiatives to upgrade obsolete sections of the St. Lawrence & Atlantic line.

I am impressed by the exemplary safety record compiled by St. Lawrence & Atlantic; the company just marked ten years without a reportable employee injury in New Hampshire. This evidence of Genesee & Wyoming's commitment to safety has been replicated across the country, as two of its other railroads recently won 2011 Harriman rail safety awards.

Genesee & Wyoming has been a strong partner in ensuring that New Hampshire and New England have access to a vital, efficient and safe freight transportation network. I support Genesee & Wyoming's acquisition of RailAmerica and urge your approval of the company's proposal.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate