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Chairman Daniel R. Elliott III
Vice Chairman Deb Miller
Member Ann D. Begeman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
October 11, 2016
Part of
Public Record

**RE: GENESEE & WYOMING INC. – ACQUISITION OF CONTROL EXEMPTION –
PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY – DOCKET #36064**

Dear Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Miller and Ms. Begeman:

The National Association of Railroad Passengers is writing to follow up on a September 2016 letter to the Board stating our support for the Boston Surface Railroad Company's (BSRC) project to return passenger rail service between Worcester, MA; Woonsocket, RI; and Providence, RI. As you consider Genesee & Wyoming Inc.'s (GWI) petition, we ask that you put in place conditional restrictions that would ensure BSRC's passenger rail project is allowed to go forward.

Providence and Worcester Railroad is a local business with deep roots in the community, and a demonstrated commitment to the long term wellbeing of the region. NARP is concerned that transferring control of this railroad to a global corporation could lead to management and operations changes that could harm BSRC's project.

As previously stated, the crowded Route 146 corridor serves approximately 10,000 daily commuters from Worcester to Providence, and 15,000 daily commuters from Greater Woonsocket to Providence. Home to one of the fastest growing job markets in New England, it is in desperate need of transportation alternatives. BSRC's bold plan to invest private capital to provide critical capacity expansion shouldn't be undercut at this stage of development. Even extremely conservative projections show this service carrying between a thousand and 1,600 passengers a day—shifting commuters from overcrowded roads onto a more energy-efficient, safer mode of transportation.

For these reasons, NARP strongly encourages the Board to take the appropriate steps in its consideration of GWI's acquisition to protect BSRC's proposed passenger corridor, and allow this project to proceed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



Sean Jeans-Gail
Vice President
National Association of Railroad Passengers

Cc: Recorded parties via E-Mail, USPS

About NARP

NARP is the only national organization speaking for the nearly 40 million users of passenger trains and rail transit. We have worked since 1967 to expand the quality and quantity of passenger rail in the U.S. Our mission is to work towards a modern, customer-focused national passenger train network that puts 80% of Americans within 25 miles of a rail station within 25 years, using a combination of high-speed/high-performance, long-distance intercity rail, commuter trains, light rail, transit and even bike share. Our vision for A Connected America supports both public entities, private companies, and partnership between both, to invest in a network to power a 21st century economy in the U.S.

