

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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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

RE: GENESEE & WYOMING INC. - ACQUISITION OF CONTROL EXEMPTION -
PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD COMPANY DOCKET NUMBER 36064

Dear Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Miller, and Member Begeman:

As members of the Rhode Island delegation to the United States Congress, we write with regard to an important matter currently pending before the Surface Transportation Board. The Genesee & Wyoming, Inc. (GWI) petition for permission to acquire control of the Providence and Worcester Railroad Company (PWRR) is an endeavor we are closely monitoring – both for its potential to increase freight capacity in the region, as well as its possible impact on two ongoing interests of significance to us and the communities we serve.

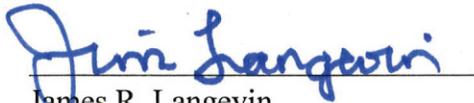
The first interest relates to the Boston Surface Railroad Company's (BSRC) recent approval by the STB to operate passenger service between Worcester, Massachusetts and the Rhode Island cities of Woonsocket and Providence. The restoration of passenger rail along this route possesses the potential for meaningful economic growth, employment opportunities, and improved transportation options for residents of the region. This nascent project holds the promise of generating further economic development and infrastructure investments in Rhode Island and Massachusetts; benefiting commuters, businesses, and communities throughout the area.

The second interest is in connection to a seasonal passenger service operated by the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council (BVTC), a Rhode Island non-profit organization. The BVTC "Polar Express" runs on the PWRR line, and provides seasonal service to more than 20,000 passengers. For more than a decade, this limited seasonal operation has been a vital economic engine for the City of Woonsocket and the Blackstone Valley region, particularly its small businesses and the hospitality industry.

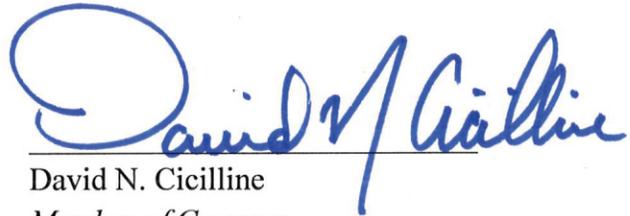
The continuation of these two projects is of vital importance to the communities we serve, and we therefore respectfully submit this letter for consideration by the Surface Transportation Board as it deliberates the proposed acquisition of PWRR by Genesee and Wyoming, Inc.

Please contact our respective offices with any questions.

Sincerely,



James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Cc: Parties of Record via Email