

TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON
15TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS



AGRICULTURE

CHAIRMAN, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH,
BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE

DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS OF
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MANAGEMENT

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1315

July 26, 2012 232683

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

Subject: STB Docket No. FD 35654

Dear Chairman Elliott:

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 26, 2012
Part of
Public Record

On July 23 it was publicly announced the proposed acquisition of RailAmerica by Genesee & Wyoming Inc. As a Representative from Illinois who has served on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I have worked with Genesee & Wyoming on several short line railroad issues in the past and believe this transaction will provide significant public benefits in Illinois and across the country.

I have had very positive experiences working with Genesee & Wyoming. This company is very focused on safety, the environment, and customer service. Their railroads provide the "first mile – last mile" of freight service to many rural areas of Illinois that otherwise would have no access to the national rail network without short line service. Safety is a key area of focus for Genesee & Wyoming Inc. Two of its railroads won the 2011 Harriman rail safety awards. Their operations in central Illinois demonstrate this commitment to safety.

This company has a very strong record of acquiring short lines throughout the United States, investing in the properties, and growing business. We need private partners like to help us grow industry and jobs in our state.

Genesee & Wyoming Inc. will definitely enhance the short line railroads now operated by RailAmerica. I strongly support this proposal, and ask for expedited review and approval of it by the Surface Transportation Board.

Sincerely,

Timothy V. Johnson
Member of Congress