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To whom it may concern:

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On behalf of the Columbus Lowndes Development Link, I am in support of the recently announced acquisition of Rail America by Genesee and Wyoming, Inc. While Rail America has a very limited presence in Mississippi, this acquisition will allow the users of rail transportation in the Columbus-Lowndes County area, such as Severstal, who are currently served by Genesee and Wyoming, significant improvement in rail transportation services to and from our area and direct access to the Port of Mobile, AL.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Max Higgins Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Joe Max Higgins Jr.