



# Illinois Department of Transportation

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July 27, 2012

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

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Subject: STB Docket No. FD 35654

Dear Chairman Elliott:

I am writing to support the proposed acquisition of RailAmerica by Genesee & Wyoming (G&W) and the potential job growth this transaction will bring in Illinois and the overall vitality of our national railroad system. As the rail hub of the nation, I believe Illinois brings a unique perspective as to how this acquisition will improve our national and regional freight rail system and economies.

From a local perspective, G&W and RailAmerica both have a significant presence in Illinois. G&W's Illinois region headquarters is based in Springfield, Illinois, and that office will see expanded responsibilities through the proposed transaction and the additional RailAmerica short lines in Missouri, Indiana, and Arkansas. This will mean a strong presence in Illinois and likely new jobs in G&W's regional headquarters in Springfield to oversee those additional properties.

From a national perspective, keeping these short-line railroads in the hands of an experienced and competent company is very important for our state's transportation system. I believe the proposed G&W acquisition of RailAmerica does just that.

First, G&W is an extremely successful short-line railroad operator. They have a proven track record of acquiring short lines, investing in them, promoting safety and developing long-term growth opportunities.

Second, G&W has the capacity to manage the RailAmerica properties. RailAmerica currently manages 45 railroads operating 7,500 track miles. G&W manages 63 railroads operating 5,400 miles. The scale of these companies is comparable which helps guarantee that G&W will have the experience and corporate bench strength to bring about a smooth transition. This is important both for RailAmerica's current employees and its customers.

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Third, railroading, and short-line railroading in particular is a capital intensive business. Maintaining efficient and safe railroad track is essential to providing rail shippers with competitively priced service. G&W is a public company with strong finances and excellent access to the capital markets. That strength will benefit Illinois' RailAmerica properties.

I hope the Board will consider this transaction as expeditiously as possible. A lengthy process will bring uncertainty to shippers and make planning for future growth more difficult.

Thank you, I appreciate your consideration of our views on the matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ann L. Schneider".

Ann L. Schneider  
Secretary