



February 25, 2014

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

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman  
Vice Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington DC 20423

Subject: STB Docket No. FD 35799

Dear Chairman Elliott and Vice Chairman Begeman:

As Chairman of the South Dakota State Senate Transportation Committee, it is indeed a pleasure to write this letter of recommendation of Genesee & Wyoming Inc.

In January 2014, the Canadian Pacific Railway announced its intent to sell the former Dakota Minnesota & Eastern (DME) mainline across South Dakota to Genesee & Wyoming Inc. (G&W). G&W will form a new railroad called the Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad that will operate the line in South Dakota. This line benefits the South Dakota economy by moving commodities like wheat, corn, ethanol and cement. Our shippers also benefit from this line's connections with BNSF, Canadian Pacific and Union Pacific railroads.

G&W management has spent a considerable amount of time here in South Dakota expressing its company's focus on safe operations and customer service. These focuses will be a great fit for the specialized shipping needs of South Dakota producers. G&W has a proven history of short line and regional operations that make them a leader in the railroad industry.

A prompt review and approval of the proposed transaction by the Surface Transportation Board will minimize uncertainties felt by employees and customers in South Dakota. I respectfully recommend STB's approval of this transaction on an exempt basis.

Sincerely,

Michael Vehle  
District 20  
State Senate



**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

State Senate  
District 20 (Aurora-Davison)  
Michael W. Vehle

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Home Address:  
132 North Harmon Drive  
Mitchell, SD 57301

Phone:  
605-996-5778

Capital Address:  
State Senate  
Pierre, SD 57501

Phone:  
605-773-3821  
(During Session)