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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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David Bernhardt
COMMISSIONER

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VERIFIED STATEMENT
of
David Bernhardt
on behalf of the
Maine Department of Transportation

My name is David Bernhardt. I am the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Transportation, located at 24 Child St., Augusta, Maine 04330. I have served in this capacity since February of 2011.

Maine Department of Transportation is a cabinet-level state agency with primary responsibility for statewide transportation by all modes of travel. Maine DOT employs approximately 1,900 people and expends or disburses over \$600 million per year, including federal, state, and local funds.

I have been following the August 15, 2016 announcement by Genesee & Wyoming Inc. (G&W) of its agreement to acquire the Providence & Worcester Railroad Company (P&W), and the subsequent August 31, 2016 filing by G&W of a Petition for Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board to acquire control of P&W.

While P&W does not provide direct service to the State of Maine, G&W owns the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad, which is a Class III short line freight railroad that operates in Maine. This has given me a direct opportunity to witness the focus on safety by employees of the railroad, and their commitment to serve the customers and communities along the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad in Maine.

I feel this commitment by G&W, and the investment in P&W can only help the companies located in Maine dependent upon a strong and safe rail freight network.

Based on the above, I support G&W's petition and approval of the Surface Transportation Board of G&W's acquisition of control.



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I, David Bernhardt, declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the United States, that the foregoing is true and correct. Further, I certify that I am qualified and authorized to file this verified statement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Bernhardt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Bernhardt, Commissioner

October 13, 2016, 2016

cc: All parties of record