



South Dakota Legislature

State Capitol, 500 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

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Senate Chamber

Wednesday, February 26, 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

Re: STB Docket No. FD 35799, Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad, Inc. – Acquisition and Operation Exemption – Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad Corporation

Dear Chairman Elliott and Vice Chairman Begeman:

My name is Billie H. Sutton, and I am Assistant Democratic Leader of the South Dakota State Senate.

On January 2, 2014 Canadian Pacific announced the sale of the former Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern railroad line through South Dakota to Genesee & Wyoming Inc. In light of the high importance this line has to the overall economy of South Dakota, I have taken a considerable interest in this sale.

All of the information I have reviewed on Genesee & Wyoming is very positive. The company has a very long history of successfully running short line and regional freight railroads. It is recognized as having a very strong culture of safety, and is well regarded by its customers.

We need a company like Genesee & Wyoming to own and operate the former DM&E lines in South Dakota. I understand that Genesee & Wyoming wants to begin operations, following STB approval, by mid-year, 2014. This is critical. The new operation needs to be in place before the grain harvest season begins.

I respectfully ask for your expedited review and approval of this transaction.

Very truly yours,