



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

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March 20, 2014

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

235689

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
March 26, 2014
Part of
Public Record

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,

As Mayor of Rapid City, the second largest city in South Dakota, my top priority is advocating for the Citizens of our community. Safe and efficient rail operation is extremely important to me.

I am enthusiastic about the acquisition of the former Canadian Pacific (CP) rail line by Genesee & Wyoming (G&W) and excited by their decision to invest in our community by upgrading the rail line and locating a headquarters in Rapid City. An investment such as this is critical for not only our local economic vitality, but for our entire State and region as well.

Our economy depends on a reliable and robust rail service across South Dakota. Genesee & Wyoming has a long history of successfully operating short line and regional freight railroads and is recognized as having a solid culture of safety. It is my understanding that following STB approval, Genesee & Wyoming will begin operations as soon as mid-year 2014. Timing 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. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Sam Kooiker, Mayor
Rapid City, South Dakota



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