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MIKE QUIGLEY
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
5TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
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TARP, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND BAILOUTS
NATIONAL SECURITY, HOMELAND DEFENSE
AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
COURTS, COMMERCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
CRIME, TERRORISM, AND HOMELAND SECURITY
THE CONSTITUTION

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July 31, 2012

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Public Record

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

Subject: STB Docket No. FD 35654

Dear Chairman Elliott:

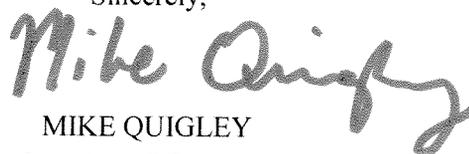
On July 23, it was publicly announced the proposed acquisition of RailAmerica by Genesee & Wyoming Inc. Representing the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, I have worked with the Genesee & Wyoming short line railroad and believe this transaction will provide significant public benefits, not only in Illinois, but also across the country.

My experiences working with Genesee & Wyoming have been very positive. This company is very focused on safety, the environment, and customer service. Their railroads provide the "first mile – last mile" of freight service to many areas of Illinois that otherwise would have no access to the national rail network without short line service. Safety is a key area of focus for Genesee & Wyoming Inc. Two of its railroads won the 2011 Harriman rail safety awards. Their operations in Illinois demonstrate this commitment to safety.

This company has a very strong record of acquiring short lines throughout the United States, investing in the properties, and growing business. We need private partners like to help us grow industry and jobs in our state.

Genesee & Wyoming Inc. will definitely enhance the short line railroads now operated by RailAmerica. I strongly support this proposal, and ask for its prompt consideration by the Surface Transportation Board.

Sincerely,


MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress