

BRIAN HIGGINS  
27TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
BORDER AND MARITIME SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COUNTERTERRORISM  
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NONPROLIFERATION AND TRADE

REVITALIZING OLDER CITIES  
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Mr. Daniel R. Elliott  
Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20423

**Re: Acquisition of RailAmerica by Genesee & Wyoming Inc. (STB Docket No. FD 35654)**

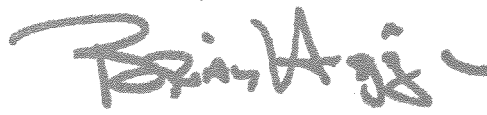
Dear Chairman Elliott,

I write today regarding the acquisition of RailAmerica by Genesee & Wyoming Inc., a matter that has recently been brought to your attention. Genesee & Wyoming has served as a critical partner to countless firms in Buffalo and Western New York, the region that I represent, and would be able to enhance the scale of their offerings through this important transaction.

As you know, short line railroads are a critical piece of our nationwide transportation and logistics network. Without short lines like Genesee & Wyoming, it would be more difficult to move raw materials, industrial products, manufactured goods, and countless other things around our country. It is imperative that the short lines remain economically vibrant and competitive, all the while maintaining safety, environmental, and customer service standards prescribed by regulators.

I urge you to give this acquisition your full and fair consideration in an expedited manner, reflecting on the longstanding reputation of Genesee & Wyoming as a proactive partner in markets across the country, including my own in Western New York, where it is a well-respected and valuable component of our economy and community.

Sincerely,

  
BRIAN HIGGINS