



**DONALD R. GREBIEN
MAYOR**



248305

August 6, 2019

STB Docket FD 36326
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
August 12, 2019
Part of
Public Record



Regarding: FD 36326 BROOKFIELD ASSET MANAGEMENT INC. — CONTROL EXEMPTION —
GENESEE & WYOMING INC.

To whom it may concern:

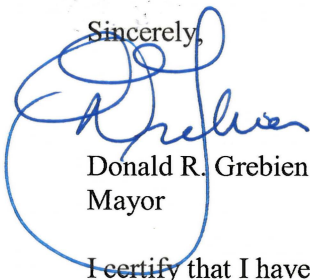
It has come to my attention that the Genesee and Wyoming Railroad, which owns the Providence and Worcester Railroad, is being acquired by Brookfield Asset Management, a company based in Toronto, Canada. I write to you as the rail lines of the Providence and Worcester Railroad affect Rhode Island and Massachusetts in many ways.

The Blackstone Valley bikeway project, the Blackstone River and Canal, the Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor, our environment and our Blackstone River National Historical Park are all impacted by these rail lines. Most specifically for the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, is the Blackstone River Scenic Railway program that the Council has been operating for 30 years with the Providence and Worcester Railroad. This year, the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council will carry more than 23,000 people on those Blackstone Valley rail lines. Most passengers will be visiting families that would be enjoying The Polar Express Train Ride.

The Blackstone Valley Tourism Council is the largest user of the excursion equipment and if this equipment is sold or abandoned, the economic effects would be devastating. Not only would the Tourism Council suffer drastic economic consequences, but the City of Woonsocket and the many businesses that rely on Polar Express customers would as well. As the Mayor of the City of Pawtucket, also located in the Blackstone Valley, I understand the devastating effects of ending the longest-running Polar Express Train Ride.

We are hopeful the new owners will want to continue the excursion service along the Providence and Worcester Railroad lines.

Sincerely,



Donald R. Grebien
Mayor

I certify that I have served copies of this letter in this proceeding to Peter Denton, Attorney for Brookfield Asset Management Inc. and Dr. Robert Billington, President, Blackstone Valley Tourism Council.