

COMMITTEE ON RULES

RANKING MEMBER

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2469 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515 3221
(202) 225 3615



DISTRICT OFFICES

3120 FEDERAL BUILDING
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ROCHESTER, NY 14614
(585) 232 4850

465 MAIN STREET SUITE 105
BUFFALO, NY 14203
(716) 853 5813

640 PARK PLACE
NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14301
716 282 1274

WEB SITE: <http://www.house.gov>

LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
28TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

July 31, 2012

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

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Dear Chairman Elliott:

I would like to express my strong support for Genesee & Wyoming's (G&W) proposed acquisition of RailAmerica and respectfully request that the Board review the transaction in the most expeditious manner possible. The transaction will not only provide public benefits to my district and New York, but also across the country.

G&W is one of the most successful short line operators in the country. They have a proven track record of acquiring short lines, investing in them and developing long term growth opportunities. Their company began as a short line in 1899, and has been in this business ever since. They are in the short line business to run short lines.

G&W also has the capacity to manage the RailAmerica properties. RailAmerica currently manages 45 railroads operating 7,500 track miles, while G&W manages 63 railroads operating 5,400 miles. G&W has the experience and management expertise for a smooth operational transition.

Finally, similar to RailAmerica's current business model, G&W's business model depends on each of its short lines operating as local railroads with local managers who have decision-making authority over their rail operations. That is the strength of the short line industry nationally and this acquisition will insure its strength going forward. It is also a key factor for superior customer service and sensitivity to local community concerns.

It is important to expedite the consideration of the proposed transaction because a lengthy approval process will bring uncertainty to shippers and make it difficult for current RailAmerica management to plan future capital investment. An expedited review will also reduce uncertainty for freight rail customers and allow the stronger combined company to begin realizing the benefits of the transaction sooner.

I appreciate your consideration of this important matter to my district, state and country.

Sincerely,

Louise M. Slaughter

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress