

Office of Proceedings
August 16, 2019
Part of
Public Record

August 8, 2019

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

Dr. Robert Billington, President-Blackstone Valley Tourism Council
175 Main Street-Pawtucket, RI 02860

Peter Denton, Attorney for Brookfield Asset Management Inc
330 Connecticut Ave NW- Washington DC 20036-1795

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

To whom it may concern:

Regarding the Genesee and Wyoming Railroad Company, which owns the Providence and Worcester Railroad lines, being acquired by Brookfield Asset Management (BAM), we offer the following comments.

The Blackstone Valley is the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution. It is the birthplace of economic freedom in our country and the first region to suffer deindustrialization. The people of the Blackstone Valley have worked hard over the past 30 years to bring back the Valley to a healthier and more vibrant condition. Many of the improvements to the quality of place are impacted by the rail lines under consideration for purchase.

Along with other groups and our local municipalities, we look for good partners to work with to continue to improve the lives of the people that reside in the Valley of the Blackstone River, which flows between Worcester, Massachusetts, and Providence, Rhode Island.

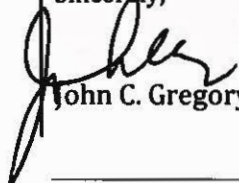
One of our partners the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council (BVTC) operates the Blackstone River Scenic Railway program. It has done so in partnership with the Providence and Worcester Railroad for more than 30 years. This year the Scenic Railway program will carry more than 23,000 people on the Blackstone Valley rail lines. Most passengers will be visiting families, enjoying The Polar Express Train Ride.

We are hopeful that BAM wants to continue the excursion service along the Providence and Worcester Railroad lines. The BVTC is the largest user of the excursion equipment and if this equipment is sold or abandoned, the economic effects for the Valley would be devastating. Not only would BVTC suffer drastic economic consequences, but the City of Woonsocket and the many businesses that rely on Polar Express customers would as well.

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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John C. Gregory - President/CEO



**2019 EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

Chair
Craig Sculos
Twin River Casino Hotel

Chair Elect
Kevin Tracy
Bank of America

Secretary
Peter Marino
**Neighborhood Health
Plan of Rhode Island**

Treasurer
Jennifer Parkhurst
Fidelity Investments

Immediate Past Chair
Susan A. Fabrizio
**Flagship Staffing
Services**

Legal Counsel
Michael A. Gamboli, Esq.
**Partridge Snow & Hahn
LLP**

**Executive Committee
At-Large Members**

Elizabeth Catucci
PKF O'Connor Davies

John Houle
JH Communications

President/CEO
John C. Gregory, iOM