1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
2	x
3	BNSF RAILWAY CO., :
4	Petitioner : No. 16-405
5	v. :
6	KELLI TYRRELL, SPECIAL :
7	ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE ESTATE OF :
8	BRENT T. TYRRELL, DECEASED, ET AL., :
9	Respondents. :
10	x
11	Washington, D.C.
12	Tuesday, April 25, 2017
13	
14	The above-entitled matter came on for oral
15	
	argument before the Supreme Court of the United States
16	at 11:10 a.m.
16 17	
	at 11:10 a.m.
17	at 11:10 a.m. APPEARANCES:
17 18	at 11:10 a.m. APPEARANCES: ANDREW S. TULUMELLO, ESQ., Washington, D.C.; on behalf
17 18 19	at 11:10 a.m. APPEARANCES: ANDREW S. TULUMELLO, ESQ., Washington, D.C.; on behalf of the Petitioner.
17 18 19 20	at 11:10 a.m. APPEARANCES: ANDREW S. TULUMELLO, ESQ., Washington, D.C.; on behalf of the Petitioner. NICOLE A. SAHARSKY, ESQ., Assistant to the Solicitor
17 18 19 20 21	at 11:10 a.m. APPEARANCES: ANDREW S. TULUMELLO, ESQ., Washington, D.C.; on behalf of the Petitioner. NICOLE A. SAHARSKY, ESQ., Assistant to the Solicitor General, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.;
17 18 19 20 21 22	at 11:10 a.m. APPEARANCES: ANDREW S. TULUMELLO, ESQ., Washington, D.C.; on behalf of the Petitioner. NICOLE A. SAHARSKY, ESQ., Assistant to the Solicitor General, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.; for United States, as amicus curiae, supporting the

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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(11:10 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear argument
4	next this morning in Case 16-405, BNSF Railway v.
5	Tyrrell.
6	Mr. Tulumello.
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF ANDREW S. TULUMELLO
8	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
9	MR. TULUMELLO: Mr. Chief Justice, and may
10	it please the Court:
11	The Montana Supreme Court concluded that
12	BNSF is subject to general personal jurisdiction in
13	Montana for two reasons:
14	First, it held that Montana State courts
15	exercise general all-purpose jurisdiction over BNSF
16	because BNSF does systematic and continuous business
17	activity in the State.
18	Second, it held that Section 56 of the
19	Federal Employers' Liability Act confers personal
20	jurisdiction on State courts.
21	Both conclusions were wrong.
22	First, under this Court's decision in
23	Daimler, BNSF is not subject to general personal
24	jurisdiction in Montana because it is not at home in
25	Montana. Montana is not BNSF's principal place of

- 1 business, nor its place of incorporation, and there is
- 2 nothing exceptional about BNSF's activities --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry. Didn't it
- 4 register in Montana?
- 5 MR. TULUMELLO: It did --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: To do business, doesn't
- 7 it -- isn't it required to register?
- 8 MR. TULUMELLO: It -- it is required and it
- 9 has registered to --
- 10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Now, I thought the --
- MR. TULUMELLO: -- to do business.
- 12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- Court below didn't
- 13 reach that question, but does the registration in
- 14 Montana change this discussion?
- 15 MR. TULUMELLO: It -- it doesn't, Your
- 16 Honor. It -- it doesn't.
- 17 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Then if I, as an
- 18 individual, establish residency in multiple places, I
- 19 can be sued for all of my activities there, correct?
- So why can't a corporation?
- MR. TULUMELLO: Your Honor, so the -- the
- 22 holding in Daimler was that even doing systematic,
- 23 continuous, sizable business would not be sufficient to
- 24 confer general personal jurisdiction. I understand --
- 25 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So if you treat a

- 1 corporation like a person, which we seem to be doing,
- 2 why isn't their registration of an agent for purposes of
- 3 accepting service enough?
- 4 MR. TULUMELLO: Well, if you treat the
- 5 corporation as a person, I think what this Court's due
- 6 process cases say is that you look for where the
- 7 corporation could be fairly regarded as at home. That
- 8 would be equivalent to the personal domicile.
- 9 And in Daimler and Goodyear, this Court
- 10 suggested that the paradigmatic places would be the
- 11 principal place of business and the place of
- 12 incorporation. Registering to do business is simply one
- 13 part of a company's business activities, but it does
- 14 not, in and of itself, come anywhere close to subjecting
- 15 a corporation to general personal jurisdiction.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: Well, there's an
- 17 argument -- there was an argument in the case we just
- 18 heard that -- that by registering, you effectively
- 19 consent to jurisdiction and consent is always a good
- 20 basis for.
- 21 MR. TULUMELLO: It is -- it -- Your Honor,
- 22 I -- I think as -- I think with respect to consent, the
- 23 argument especially in this case that by registering to
- 24 business -- to do business in Montana law, BNSF
- 25 consented to any kind of jurisdiction is expressly

- 1 negated by the text of the Montana statute, which says
- 2 registering to do business in and of itself does not
- 3 confer personal jurisdiction in this State.
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Of course, the --
- 5 the issue, I guess, was not addressed below and is not
- 6 before us.
- 7 MR. TULUMELLO: Correct.
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I'm looking at
- 9 footnote 1 in the government's brief.
- 10 MR. TULUMELLO: Your Honor, so I -- I would
- 11 draw -- I would draw a distinction about how the
- 12 registration issue can play in this case. One is, is
- 13 registration as part of the overall level of activity
- 14 engaged in by the company, is that enough to make it at
- 15 home. Clearly we think it cannot. Registration, you
- 16 know, running trains through the State, that's not
- 17 enough to make it at home in Montana.
- There's a separate issue of whether
- 19 registration in and -- in and of itself is some sort of
- 20 implied consent to -- to be subject to general personal
- 21 jurisdiction, and the Montana Supreme Court didn't reach
- 22 that issue. So with respect to Section 56, the Montana
- 23 Supreme Court reached the truly unique and unprecedented
- 24 conclusion that Congress, in confirming the concurrent
- 25 subject matter of the State courts, meant for the first

- 1 time to confer personal jurisdiction.
- 2 As this Court held in the Second Employers'
- 3 Liability Act cases, decided just two years after
- 4 Section 56 was enacted, Section 56 was designed to
- 5 abrogate Supreme Court of Connecticut's decision in
- 6 Hoxie, which had held that -- that -- that Congress in
- 7 FELA had tried to establish exclusive Federal court
- 8 jurisdiction over FELA claims. So Congress, in the
- 9 concurrent jurisdiction clause in FELA, confirmed that
- 10 State courts retained concurrent subject matter
- 11 jurisdiction.
- 12 Concurrent subject matter jurisdiction is
- 13 also a term of art that has for 200 years, since the
- 14 Judiciary Act, and it's in the Judiciary Act, has been
- 15 understood to refer to subject matter jurisdiction and
- 16 not personal jurisdiction. Respondents don't say a
- 17 single historical example of where subject matter
- 18 jurisdiction has been deemed to include --
- 19 JUSTICE KENNEDY: It was related somewhat in
- 20 the last case. Could Congress pass a statute conferring
- 21 jurisdiction on -- in Montana State courts under the
- 22 circumstances of this case?
- MR. TULUMELLO: Well, we don't -- we --
- 24 well, let me -- I'll take that in parts because the --
- 25 one -- one part of it raises a significant --

- 1 JUSTICE KENNEDY: The thing is I don't know
- 2 it was that essential for your argument. I'm just
- 3 curious what your view is.
- 4 MR. TULUMELLO: I would -- I would --
- 5 Justice Kennedy, I would take it in two parts.
- 6 Congress, we believe, could constitutionally provide for
- 7 nationwide service-of-process provisions in Federal
- 8 courts. I think where the issue gets very difficult is
- 9 whether Congress could prescribe the Federal
- 10 jurisdiction of the State courts. It's not something
- 11 that Congress has ever done. There is no historical
- 12 example of that and it would raise some serious
- 13 federalism constraints and we also argue serious
- 14 Fourteenth Amendment constraints.
- In any event, FELA does not attempt to do
- 16 that. Again, as the Court in the -- almost
- 17 contemporaneous decision in the Second Employers'
- 18 Liability Act made clear that Congress was not trying to
- 19 enlarge or regulate the jurisdiction of the State courts
- 20 or to control their modes of procedure. And I think the
- 21 consequences of trying to read a special venue statute
- 22 as containing a grant of personal jurisdiction would
- 23 really call into question what the 200 or odd-so special
- 24 venue statutes in the Federal code are doing, whether
- 25 they have some heretofore unknown grant of personal

- 1 jurisdiction. The may-have language is simply not the
- 2 way that Congress traditionally has spoken to the issue
- 3 of personal jurisdiction. The may-have language is
- 4 currently in the general venue statute. Nobody thinks
- 5 that 1391 provides for personal jurisdiction.
- The general venue statute from 1948 to 1988
- 7 used the may-have language as suit may -- may be brought
- 8 wherever a corporation is doing business. Again, nobody
- 9 thought that the general venue statute at that time was
- 10 an independent source of personal jurisdiction.
- 11 Instead, the way that Congress speaks to Federal
- 12 personal jurisdiction is through changing the options
- 13 for service of process, and that was established in 1838
- 14 in the Tollen v. Sprodd case. It was reiterated in
- 15 Robertson in 1925 when the Court actually explored the
- 16 difference between venue-type language and
- 17 jurisdictional-type language and cited specific
- 18 statutory examples of where Congress had expanded
- 19 Federal court jurisdictions.
- 20 JUSTICE KAGAN: Are -- are you saying that
- 21 service-of-process language is an absolute necessity?
- MR. TULUMELLO: I don't think it's an
- 23 absolutely necessity. The Court -- Congress could say
- 24 something about personal jurisdiction itself like in
- 25 current Rule 4. But I do think there must be some

- 1 method prescribed by Congress as this Court said in
- 2 Omni.
- 3 JUSTICE KAGAN: Aren't there some statutes
- 4 that look like the first sentence of this statute that
- 5 have been read as personal jurisdiction requirements?
- 6 MR. TULUMELLO: It -- I -- Respondents
- 7 cite a couple post-Omni cases that infer service of
- 8 process provisions from statutes that set up -- you
- 9 know, agencies, and where the courts have held in those
- 10 circumstances that unless we infer some kind of subpoena
- 11 authority, the agency just, you know, won't be able to
- 12 get out -- get out the door or do its job.
- But, by and large, as this Court said in
- 14 Omni -- I mean, this Court has never inferred a
- 15 service-of-process provision, and the Court in Omni
- 16 gave, you know, three very good reasons for why that
- 17 would be a bad idea. Congress knows how to do it and so
- don't want to presume that Congress doesn't know how to
- 19 do it. Second, that legislative rule making has the
- 20 benefit of, you know, better predictability. And --
- 21 and -- and third, that in light of the long tradition of
- 22 how Congress has spoken to -- to these issues, it would
- 23 be unwise for courts to get into the business of common
- 24 law rule making for establishing personal jurisdiction.
- 25 JUSTICE ALITO: One of the amici supporting

- 1 Respondents says that adopting your position would
- 2 create chaos in the industry. What is your response to
- 3 that?
- 4 MR. TULUMELLO: I -- I think just the
- 5 opposite is true, Justice Alito. Adopting our rule
- 6 would bring some predictability and some order to the
- 7 industry. Right now, it is a true wild west of FELA
- 8 claims being filed in forums like Montana, and like
- 9 these cases where the plaintiffs are not from Montana,
- 10 none of the alleged negligence occurred in Montana, none
- of the alleged injury occurred in Montana, and yet we're
- 12 still subject to suit there.
- So FELA plaintiffs using specific
- 14 jurisdiction or general jurisdiction, but going to
- 15 forums that have a reasonable connection to the
- 16 litigation will, in fact, you know, bring order to this
- 17 area of the justice system.
- 18 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, what about someone
- 19 who's working very far -- routinely they work very far
- 20 from their home, they're injured very far from home,
- 21 what would your rule do to them?
- MR. TULUMELLO: The -- that -- that
- 23 individual would have specific jurisdiction in the place
- 24 where they were injured. If they were regularly
- 25 employed in a particular State, let's say Montana, and

- 1 they were sent out of State, I think there would be --
- 2 there may well be specific jurisdiction depending on
- 3 the -- the analysis of the episode-in-suit. Did the
- 4 supervisor send the person there? Was equipment from
- 5 Montana sent out with that person that, you know, caused
- 6 an injury? But specific jurisdiction would be
- 7 available. And, of course, the -- the safety valve of
- 8 all-purpose jurisdiction would be available as well.
- 9 I'd like to reserve the remainder of my
- 10 time.
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- Ms. Saharsky.
- ORAL ARGUMENT OF NICOLE A. SAHARSKY
- 14 FOR UNITED STATES, AS AMICUS CURIAE,
- 15 SUPPORTING THE PETITIONER
- MS. SAHARSKY: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
- 17 please the Court:
- 18 So there are two questions before the Court.
- 19 The Court said in Omni that in order to assert personal
- 20 jurisdiction, you have to have a statute or a rule
- 21 making the defendant amenable to service of process.
- 22 There's a question of, here, is it Section 56 or Montana
- 23 law. We've explained why we think it's Montana law.
- And then the second question is if they're
- 25 exercising service of process on Montana law, does -- is

- 1 that general jurisdiction consistent with the standards
- 2 the Court set out in Daimler and Goodyear, and we don't
- 3 think it is.
- 4 So on -- particularly on the Section 56
- 5 question, because that's one where there's a strong
- 6 Federal interest in not having words that don't say
- 7 anything about service of process being interpreted to
- 8 in fact say something about service of process, we have
- 9 a first sentence that refers to venue only in Federal
- 10 courts, and then a second sentence referring to State
- 11 courts. But all it does is to clarify that there's
- 12 concurrent jurisdiction in the State courts.
- And we just don't see how you can get to
- 14 conferral of personal jurisdiction in the State courts,
- 15 especially when we know, very clearly from the
- 16 legislative record, that Congress was trying to solve
- 17 two particular problems, the first in the first sentence
- 18 with venue in Federal courts, and then the second in the
- 19 sentence -- second sentence with making sure that State
- 20 courts understood that they could hear these claims.
- I think it is also noticeable, as
- 22 Petitioner's counsel suggested, that we have not -- we
- 23 are not aware of any example in which Congress has used
- 24 language of this type to confer personal -- or even more
- 25 explicit language to confer personal jurisdiction in the

- 1 State courts, and also, that even at the time, back in
- 2 1910, Congress knew how to confer personal jurisdiction
- 3 if it wanted to.
- We gave examples in -- of the Clayton Act
- 5 from 1914 in our brief, the Credit Mobilier Act in
- 6 Petitioner's brief, and then these were also discussed
- 7 in the Robertson case from 1925. In that, Congress
- 8 knows how to do venue versus service of process. That
- 9 has continued up through the Court's decision in Omni.
- 10 So we just don't think that Section 56
- 11 should be interpreted to be the first statute -- statute
- 12 to do it, especially where the implication with respect
- 13 to the second question would be to say that a company
- 14 like BNSF is subject to general personal jurisdiction in
- 15 28 or more States.
- 16 If the Court's decisions in Goodyear and
- 17 Daimler mean anything, it's that that just can't be
- 18 correct.
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: The Respondents note
- 20 what we said in Daimler that, in addition to the State
- 21 of incorporation and the principal place of business,
- there may be particular circumstances where another
- 23 State could be considered their home as well. And given
- 24 the volume of activity in the State in terms of the
- 25 physical plant, it's a railroad, goes through -- I

- 1 forget the number of employees -- why doesn't that fit
- 2 in that additional criteria?
- 3 MS. SAHARSKY: Well, the Court described
- 4 that category very narrowly as a place where the
- 5 contacts are not just that they are continuous and
- 6 systematic business contacts, but where they are so
- 7 significant that you consider the company at home there,
- 8 that it's like the company's domicile.
- 9 And the only court -- example that the
- 10 Court's given of that to this point is the Perkins case
- 11 where you have the company that actually relocated
- 12 during the war from the Philippines to Ohio. And there
- 13 they said that --
- 14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: What does that do in the
- 15 hypothetical 50/50? Let's say a State has a
- 16 headquarters in Delaware. It sells 51 percent of its
- 17 goods in New York and 51 percent -- and 49 percent in
- 18 California. Almost equal number of employees, a
- 19 difference of 10 percent, let's say. Same amount of
- 20 property, whatever. And I'm assuming this railroad
- 21 could fit that description in a number of States.
- 22 Why isn't it at home where a substantial
- 23 amount of its business is going on?
- MS. SAHARSKY: Well, because that would make
- 25 the railroad at home in so many places for purposes of

- 1 general jurisdiction. And the Court said that where the
- 2 focus should be going forward, and we think that this
- 3 makes sense, is in specific jurisdiction.
- 4 In the situation that you posited where
- 5 there are these two States where a lot of things are
- 6 happening, that's where you would expect a lot of causes
- 7 of action to arise. And so there would be personal
- 8 jurisdiction over the defendant there. It would just be
- 9 on a specific jurisdiction.
- 10 The Court conceived of general jurisdiction
- 11 as a fallback, a place where you couldn't just subject
- 12 the defendant to suit there for a claim arising out of a
- 13 related-to its contacts with the State --
- 14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: What's the logic of --
- MS. SAHARSKY: -- just any type of claim.
- 16 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: What's the logic of --
- 17 what's the logic of that?
- MS. SAHARSKY: It's --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: What's -- what's --
- 20 other than we said it.
- MS. SAHARSKY: Sure.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: It certainly was very
- 23 different than what International Shoe ever considered.
- 24 What's -- what's the unfairness? We go back a little
- 25 bit to the question that -- to the predecessor case. If

- 1 you're present in both States in an almost equal amount,
- 2 and you are doing the bulk of your business equally, why
- 3 shouldn't you feel that you're going to be hauled into
- 4 both places?
- 5 MS. SAHARSKY: Well, the difference between
- 6 being hauled into court for claims that arise out of or
- 7 are related to the context with the State, as opposed to
- 8 claims that are just any kind of possible claims. And I
- 9 think the reason that the Court talked about you being
- 10 at home is because it's the equivalent of like domicile
- 11 for a person. It said what's the equivalent of a
- 12 corporation? A place where it voluntarily chooses to go
- 13 to do its business. It gets the benefits of that
- 14 State's law, and then it means that it also has to have
- 15 the burdens. And the burdens are not just that you
- 16 would be subject to any claim -- or to the claims that
- 17 are related to the State, but to any kind of claim.
- 18 So in somewhere where there is that kind of
- 19 relationship that the corporation has in terms of
- 20 incorporation or principal place of business, it's fair
- 21 for the corporation, like a person, where they're
- 22 domiciled, to have to answer for any type of claim. But
- 23 if we're talking about somewhere that you -- that the
- 24 corporation is just doing business where it's not
- 25 considered at home, it's fair, the Court said, for the

- 1 corporation in that circumstance to have to answer for
- 2 claims that are related to the forum. But here, we have
- 3 these claims that have just no relationship to the forum
- 4 at all. We don't have the plaintiffs from the forum, we
- 5 don't have any injury in the forum, the defendants are
- 6 not at home or incorporated in the forum.
- 7 So we do think it makes sense for general
- 8 jurisdiction, as the Court conceived of it in Goodyear
- 9 and Daimler, to be this kind of safety valve going
- 10 forward, and that where the bulk of the action would be
- 11 is in the specific jurisdiction context. Because after
- 12 all, those are the places where things happened that are
- 13 related to the litigation. There's people there;
- 14 there's evidence there. Those States have an interest
- in having those claims adjudicated, spending their
- 16 juries and their resources on claims that were related
- 17 to and happened in the State.
- 18 If the Court has no further questions, we'd
- 19 urge that the judgment of the court below be reversed.
- Thank you.
- 21 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- Ms. Murray.
- 23 ORAL ARGUMENT OF JULIE A. MURRAY
- ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENTS
- 25 MS. MURRAY: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it

- 1 please the Court:
- 2 For more than a century, injured rail
- 3 workers have been able to sue their negligent employers
- 4 in a court of -- in any State where the railroads are
- 5 doing business. Congress gave workers the substantial
- 6 right so that they, in Justice Jackson's words, would
- 7 have the dice loaded in their favor. BNSF's view of
- 8 Section 56 would turn this substantial right into an
- 9 illusory one.
- 10 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Why isn't it that we were
- 11 told -- and I think it's correct -- that the language
- 12 that's used in Section 56, the wording, "Civil action
- may be brought in," is found in some 200-odd venue
- 14 statutes? So the -- the way this statute is written, it
- 15 sounds like a venue description, not a personal
- 16 jurisdiction description.
- 17 MS. MURRAY: Certainly, Justice Ginsburg, we
- 18 recognize that the -- the language, you know, "where
- 19 suit may be brought" appears in other statutes and has
- 20 been interpreted in that way. But I think this Court
- 21 should look at Section 56 as a whole. We are not aware
- 22 of another statute that, in a single paragraph, has the
- 23 -- the same language that FELA does, where it has a --
- 24 it talks about where suits may be brought, it then goes
- 25 on to say that the jurisdiction of the State and Federal

- 1 courts would be concurrent, and then has some very
- 2 unusual --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: "Concurrent" usually
- 4 means that it's not -- it's a Federal claim, but it
- 5 could be adjudicated in State as well as Federal court.
- 6 That's what concurrent jurisdiction means.
- 7 MS. MURRAY: Well, I -- we think, Your
- 8 Honor, in this context it is ambiguous, given -- if you
- 9 look at the statute as a package where it has the
- 10 "may" -- "may be brought" language, the "concurrent
- 11 jurisdiction" language, and then the very unusual
- 12 provision that actually prohibits removal of these
- 13 State -- of these Federal causes of action into Federal
- 14 court. And I would say, you know, to the extent that
- 15 this Court is -- is troubled by the -- our reading of
- 16 concurrent jurisdiction as perhaps an unusual one, I
- 17 think I should be equally troubled by the -- the
- 18 illusory reading of Section 56 that BNSF would give it.
- 19 Because the -- at the time that Congress
- 20 amended FELA in 1910, it intended for workers not to
- 21 have to go to the place of incorporation of the company,
- 22 or to leave far from their homes in order to bring suit,
- 23 regardless of where they were injured. And the reality
- 24 is, I -- I think you can't think about this case if you
- 25 don't accept our reading of FELA as being fair because

- 1 workers could still get specific jurisdiction over the
- 2 railroads in a place close to their home. That's simply
- 3 not going to be the case for many of these workers.
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Why is -- why is
- 5 that?
- 6 MS. MURRAY: Well, I think Congress
- 7 recognized in 1910 the railroad industry is unique. You
- 8 have, in many cases, workers traveling five, six, seven
- 9 hours, even to get to their starting work point where
- 10 they then travel farther away. So if you look, for
- 11 example, at Mr. Nelson, he is a resident of the State of
- 12 Montana. He was injured in the State of Washington.
- 13 And under BNSF's view, he would either have to go to
- 14 Washington, he'd have to go to Tarrant County, Texas, or
- 15 he could go to Delaware. That's simply not the outcome
- 16 that Congress ever would have predicted, given the
- 17 language that it adopted in 1910. And what we know it
- 18 was trying to do when it adopted that language.
- 19 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Then why didn't it say
- 20 the action could be brought at plaintiff's residence?
- MS. MURRAY: Well, it considered that, Your
- 22 Honor. And, in fact, it -- the reason it didn't have
- 23 plaintiff's residence language is because industry said
- 24 we don't want to have to defend suit in the plaintiff's
- 25 residence if we're not doing business there. So the

- 1 doing business planning language, I think, was actually
- 2 seen as being more fair to defendants than just a
- 3 plaintiff's residence standard.
- And the other thing that I would point out
- 5 on that -- that issue, is that in 1947, Congress, again,
- 6 considered adopting a different standard for Section 56.
- 7 It considered a plaintiff's residence standard, and it
- 8 rejected it, because it actually would have been used at
- 9 that point to narrow the scope of places in which
- 10 plaintiffs could have brought their suit.
- 11 Congress was presented with evidence that
- 12 plaintiffs were bringing suits similar to what our
- 13 clients have done here, where the only connection
- 14 between the suits and the State was the fact that the
- 15 defendant was doing business there --
- 16 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I -- I haven't
- 17 looked at a route map, but BNSF, I assume, is doing
- 18 business in a lot of States. And this would allow
- 19 plaintiffs, wherever they reside, wherever they are
- 20 injured, to sue in any one of those States, right?
- MS. MURRAY: That's correct, Your Honor.
- 22 And we think that that is what Congress intended, and
- 23 it's -- Congress knew that that was, in fact, happening
- 24 in 1947 --
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Even though the

- 1 injury -- even though the injury occurred somewhere
- 2 else.
- 3 MS. MURRAY: That's correct. And I think it
- 4 is because of the unique nature of the railroad
- 5 industry. You have --
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: It's not the unique
- 7 nature of particular forums? I mean, the -- the
- 8 discussion in the briefs is that there is a reason that
- 9 someone, not a resident of Montana, injured in
- 10 Washington, would want to sue in Montana. Is that
- 11 something we ought to take into consideration?
- MS. MURRAY: Well, I -- I think you can take
- 13 it into consideration, but I actually think it, in many
- 14 ways, favors us. I -- there are good reasons why
- 15 someone would want to bring suit in Montana, even if
- 16 they weren't injured there, even if they're not a
- 17 resident. I mean, I think as BNSF concedes, there are a
- 18 lot of these cases brought in Montana. And --
- 19 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: What's -- what's the
- 20 good reason they would want to sue in Montana?
- 21 MS. MURRAY: Well, from a litigant's
- 22 perspective, if you want predictability, you want to
- 23 know that the court that you're going to knows the
- 24 specialized area of law like the back of their hand,
- 25 that is Montana. These judges know FELA cases because

- 1 they see a lot of them.
- 2 So I -- I think there is good reason for
- 3 some --
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: That seems -- that
- 5 seems a little circular.
- 6 MS. MURRAY: Well, but it is the practical
- 7 reality, in terms of -- of where people are bringing
- 8 suits. I would say it's not the case that all of these
- 9 cases are being brought in the State of Montana. I
- 10 mean, I think BNSF and its amici certainly try to make
- 11 that portrayal, but we don't have any hard data about
- 12 that. And certainly in speaking with attorneys who
- 13 represent FELA plaintiffs, they bring them lots of
- 14 different locations, including, you know, other
- 15 locations where people are not injured. And the fact of
- 16 the matter is the railroad is just doing business there.
- 17 The other thing I would say is that, you
- 18 know, whether you're concerned about people bringing
- 19 suit in the State of Montana, if you were to say that
- 20 our clients could not bring suit here, it would also
- 21 mean that those clients who want to bring suit in their
- 22 home State, again, in many instances, are not going to
- 23 be able to do that.
- 24 As to the specific jurisdiction question, I
- 25 think, you know, we are in agreement that people could

- 1 bring suit in the State where they were injured, but I
- 2 actually think that the analysis of specific
- 3 jurisdiction beyond that State gets quite complicated
- 4 pretty quickly. You know, it would depend on, is this
- 5 person, for example, primarily working in their home
- 6 State. And the nature of this industry is many of
- 7 these -- these workers do not primarily work in their
- 8 home States. They may rarely, if ever, work there.
- 9 So in -- under those circumstances, I think
- 10 it is -- you know, it's certainly not what Congress had
- in mind when it adopted the statute and said, you know,
- 12 by -- by adopting this statute, we are going to make
- 13 sure that people can find the defendant at any point or
- 14 place or State along the railroad's tracks and there
- 15 bring their actions.
- 16 JUSTICE ALITO: And I could understand why
- 17 Congress -- I could understand why they might have
- 18 wanted to allow the injured worker to sue where the --
- 19 where the injury occurred, or where the worker resides,
- 20 or where the company is headquartered, but why they
- 21 would want to allow a -- a suit in -- in a State that
- 22 satisfies none of those, really, is hard to understand.
- MS. MURRAY: Well, Your Honor, I -- I think
- 24 it is actually easier to understand if you sort of set
- 25 it in the context of what was going on at that time.

- 1 The railroads -- there were thousands of these injuries.
- 2 And I think Congress recognized, you know, these are
- 3 highly sophisticated interstate transportation
- 4 companies. They can get to these places of litigation a
- 5 lot more easily than injured workers who may have to
- 6 travel three States over to get to the --
- JUSTICE ALITO: No, I know. And that
- 8 would -- you could say that would justify saying --
- 9 provide a reason for saying you could sue where you
- 10 live, you could limit it to those -- to only those
- 11 States where they're doing business. But why you would
- 12 say you can sue anywhere has nothing to do with either
- 13 the -- either the person who's injured or the company
- or -- or the -- or where the injury occurs, really, it's
- 15 hard to understand going forward.
- MS. MURRAY: Well, I -- I do think it is the
- 17 language that Congress chose. And I -- I would say,
- 18 too, with respect to the --
- 19 JUSTICE GINSBURG: With respect to that, I
- 20 mean, we did have -- we say different things in
- 21 different cases, but I think Kepner -- Kepner typed
- 22 Section 56, a venue provision, didn't it?
- 23 MS. MURRAY: Certainly this -- this Court
- 24 has referred to the provision as a venue provision. I
- don't think that's inconsistent with our position

- 1 because, as we concede, we think the first sentence
- does, in fact, confer both venue and personal
- 3 jurisdiction in Federal court. So it's not
- 4 inconsistent.
- 5 I would point, Your Honor -- I think, you
- 6 know, the -- perhaps the -- the best cases, in terms of
- 7 support for our position, are the Pope and the Boyd
- 8 cases. So Pope, you had a situation very similar to
- 9 this where someone brought suit in a State court that --
- 10 where the injury had not occurred. The only connection
- 11 was the railroad was doing business there. And in that
- 12 case, this Court said this, Section 56, quote,
- 13 "establishes Petitioner's right to sue in Alabama. It
- 14 provides that the employee may bring his suit wherever
- 15 the carrier, quote, 'shall be doing business,'" end
- 16 quote.
- 17 JUSTICE GINSBURG: What -- what year is that
- 18 case?
- MS. MURRAY: I'm sorry?
- 20 JUSTICE GINSBURG: What year is the Pope
- 21 case?
- MS. MURRAY: It was 1953. So it's post
- 23 International Shoe. And this is a case -- we just -- we
- 24 talked about it at page 29 of our response, where the --
- 25 the Court has clearly staked out a position that the

- 1 doing-business language in the first sentence of Section
- 2 56 applies to State courts. And I think the only way
- 3 that you can make sense of that is to read Section 56 in
- 4 the way that we do, that takes the personal jurisdiction
- 5 conferred by sentence --
- 6 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Do you have any -- any
- 7 example of any other statute that does what you claim
- 8 this one does, that is, that -- that determines State
- 9 court jurisdiction, that has a provision, which you say
- 10 is conferred, that alters the personal jurisdiction of
- 11 the State court from what it would be without the
- 12 Federal statute?
- 13 MS. MURRAY: So the -- as I said, we don't
- 14 have a statute that we think mirrors FELA. We do think
- 15 it's an unusual statute that was called for by unusual
- 16 circumstances. Probably the closest example is 15
- 17 U.S.C. 77b, it's part of the Securities Act, and that
- 18 statute does actually have an express service-of-process
- 19 provision with respect to Federal courts.
- 20 It also has a concurrent jurisdiction
- 21 language in it. And it has, in fact, in at least some
- 22 lower courts, been interpreted -- or there's a
- 23 disagreement among the lower courts as to whether that
- 24 language actually provides or permits State courts to
- 25 exercise personal jurisdiction to the same extent as

- 1 Federal courts would as well.
- 2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: The -- the Court in
- 3 Pope didn't mention personal jurisdiction at all.
- 4 MS. MURRAY: That's right, Your Honor. We
- 5 don't think -- we're not arguing --
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: And that's your
- 7 strongest authority?
- 8 MS. MURRAY: Well, I think it is one. I
- 9 certainly think the Boyd case, again, another -- this
- 10 one is -- we talk about at pages 31 to 31 -- 32 of our
- 11 brief. The Boyd case is another example where, again,
- 12 we're not arguing it's a personal jurisdiction case, but
- 13 it was a case in which this Court read Section 56,
- 14 including sentence 2 of Section 56, to confer what it
- 15 called a substantial right, but under another provision
- 16 of FELA which prohibits any contract, the intent of
- 17 which is to exempt the carrier from liability.
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: The right that --
- 19 the right, I think, they're referring to, is the right
- 20 to proceed in State court, right?
- MS. MURRAY: That's correct, yes.
- 22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Which --
- MS. MURRAY: That's --
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- which, of course,
- 25 you'd expect that to deal with the second sentence,

- 1 because it talks about the concurrent jurisdiction.
- 2 There's a difference between, you can proceed in State
- 3 court and the question of whether there's personal
- 4 jurisdiction in a particular State court.
- 5 MS. MURRAY: Well, I -- I take your point,
- 6 Your Honor, but, I think, we don't typically think of a
- 7 provision that just says there's concurrent jurisdiction
- 8 between State and Federal courts and is referring only
- 9 to subject-matter jurisdiction. Certainly in the
- 10 circumstances like this, where Congress, you know,
- 11 thought that there was this jurisdiction before and it
- 12 just wanted to -- to be extra sure to confirm it --
- 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I'm sorry. We
- 14 don't -- we don't typically think of concurrent State
- and Federal jurisdiction to refer to subject-matter
- 16 jurisdiction?
- 17 MS. MURRAY: No. What I was going to say is
- 18 we don't typically think of provisions like that as
- 19 conferring a substantial, non-waivable right. And so I
- 20 think the -- the Boyd case certainly in terms of looking
- 21 at what is Section 56 doing, if all it is doing is
- 22 saying that you can bring a -- a cause of action in
- 23 Federal court in certain venues and just reconfirming
- 24 that State courts have subject-matter jurisdiction, you
- 25 wouldn't normally think of that. Or it seems

- 1 difficult --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: Wasn't there -- wasn't
- 3 there a decision that suggested that State courts didn't
- 4 have concurrent -- concurrent jurisdiction and that's
- 5 why Congress made the change?
- MS. MURRAY: There was, Your Honor. And we
- 7 don't take issue with the -- the proposition from BNSF
- 8 that that is one thing that Congress was doing with the
- 9 concurrent jurisdiction language. It was -- it was
- 10 confirming that State and Federal courts both had
- 11 subject-matter jurisdiction. But we think given --
- 12 given the precedent, given Boyd and Pope, you're not
- 13 writing on a blank slate in terms of how you interpret
- 14 Section 56.
- 15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, Pope didn't
- 16 mention personal jurisdiction. Did Boyd?
- 17 MS. MURRAY: No. These are not personal
- 18 jurisdiction cases, but I do think the rationale that
- 19 they used in interpreting Section 56 necessarily -- when
- 20 you look at what Section 56 is doing, I -- I think you
- 21 do have to recognize it is doing something more than
- 22 what BNSF says it is doing. And -- and through Pope,
- that the language of doing business in sentence 1
- 24 applies to sentence 2 somehow, or applies to State
- 25 courts somehow, and we think that sentence 2 provides

- 1 that necessary link.
- 2 If I -- if I could talk briefly about our
- 3 alternative argument, you know, if this Court were to
- 4 read FELA not to permit State courts here to exercise
- 5 personal jurisdiction, we do think that under this
- 6 Court's determination in Daimler and the preceding
- 7 precedent that there could be general jurisdiction here
- 8 as well, given the nature of BNSF's contacts with the
- 9 State of Montana.
- 10 And I think one key in that analysis -- or
- one way to frame that analysis is to really look at
- 12 railroads as being unique. This is not -- in -- in the
- instance of BNSF and Montana, you have, again, a very
- 14 sophisticated interstate commerce company that has, in
- 15 fact, been in Montana, through its predecessors, has
- 16 been engaged there before Montana was even a State, and
- 17 helped to populate the State by bringing in farmers and
- 18 ranchers. There's some of the history of this in the
- 19 Maintenance of Way amicus brief.
- 20 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, is your argument that
- 21 railroad companies are so unique that they should be
- 22 subject to general jurisdiction everywhere?
- 23 MS. MURRAY: I don't think that that would
- 24 necessarily have to follow, but I think it is a key
- 25 ingredient as to why BNSF is at home in the State of

- 1 Montana.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: But, I mean, at home in the
- 3 State of Montana and at home in everyplace else that it
- 4 operates?
- 5 MS. MURRAY: I -- Your Honor, I think it
- 6 would depend on the other States in which it operates
- 7 and its history in -- in those States, the level of
- 8 contacts. I mean, I think in addition to the -- the
- 9 history, if you look at present day, BNSF has a gigantic
- 10 footprint in Montana. That's not true in all of the
- 11 States in which it operates. It has over 2100 miles,
- 12 roughly 2100 miles of track, 2200 employees in the
- 13 State, more than 40 facilities in the State, a permanent
- 14 presence that crisscrosses the State --
- 15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: And there is
- 16 something --
- 17 MS. MURRAY: -- and has for decades.
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I understand the
- 19 notion that railroads -- for those reasons, they
- 20 obviously have to have a lot of physical plant, they
- 21 have to have a lot of workers, they, you know, traverse
- 22 the State. I understand how that might look like
- 23 they're at home. But there are a lot of other
- 24 industries that have a significant impact. I don't
- 25 know, there are interstate banks, airlines. I suspect

- 1 that there are agricultural companies that do a lot of
- 2 business and cover a lot of land and territory.
- I mean, is your -- your test just that it's
- 4 a railroad, or -- or how do you decide what other
- 5 companies and industries are at home in Montana?
- 6 MS. MURRAY: Well, sir, we are not arguing
- 7 for a standard that would sweep beyond railroads here.
- 8 I think there could be aspects of other industries that
- 9 would lend themselves to the same types of analysis.
- 10 But I -- I think that railroads actually are in a pretty
- 11 unique segment of interest -- industry in the sense of
- 12 unlike interstate or international banks, you know, you
- depend on railroads to have a permanent physical
- 14 presence in the State, because, otherwise, you cannot
- 15 actually, you know, guarantee that you can carry goods
- 16 from one point of the country to another.
- 17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So trucking
- 18 companies? Trucking companies, they carry a lot of
- 19 goods, too.
- 20 MS. MURRAY: And they can go in many
- 21 different routes, Your Honor. I think here where you
- 22 have --
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: No, no. I mean,
- 24 they're going to take -- what is it? -- 95 across -- not
- 25 95. 90?

- JUSTICE GORSUCH: I-80 across Montana.
- 2 (Laughter.)
- 3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: There you go. It's
- 4 that geographical diversity.
- 5 (Laughter.)
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So -- so I-80 across
- 7 Montana, that's the route they're going to take.
- 8 They're going to, just like the railroad, is going to
- 9 follow the railroad tracks.
- 10 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Maybe it's 90.
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: The truckers are
- 12 going to follow I-80.
- MS. MURRAY: Well, they're -- they're still
- 14 not going to have that same sort of permanent physical
- 15 presence in the State of laying down 2100 miles of
- 16 track.
- 17 The other thing that I would point out with
- 18 respect to BNSF's role in the State of Montana, I think
- 19 to Justice Sotomayor's question about the registration,
- 20 we do have an alternative argument with respect to
- 21 consent, but we have all along also argued that the --
- the registration, the longtime doing of business in
- 23 Montana should -- should play a role and is distinct
- 24 from some of the -- the cases that this Court -- Court
- 25 has had before it in the past.

- 1 And, you know, one other thing to note,
- 2 which, I think, is, again, distinct from -- including
- 3 Daimler, what we know here about BNSF is that it is so
- 4 integrated into Montana's economic and political life,
- 5 it set up its own government relations shop in the State
- of Montana. It's got lobbyists there to advocate for
- 7 its interests.
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Oh, I'm sure a lot
- 9 of other companies have government relations offices in
- 10 the State.
- MS. MURRAY: Well, that may be true, Your
- 12 Honor. And, certainly, I think in this analysis, when
- 13 you are looking at various factors that could lead you
- 14 to conclude that BNSF is at home in the State of
- 15 Montana, I think that is one factor that plays a role
- 16 into it. You don't have to worry about, as you would in
- 17 cases, for example, with, you know, foreign companies
- 18 that are being dragged into court because their products
- 19 happen to -- to land in that State. Here you have a
- 20 company that has a permanent physical presence and it's
- 21 got lobbyists there who are looking out for its
- 22 interests if it doesn't like what is happening in the
- 23 courts of Montana or the substantive law to which it is
- 24 subjected in Montana.
- 25 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You would still have a

- 1 right to bring a Federal action in Montana -- no? --
- 2 under the Section 56, which permits an action to be
- 3 brought in a district in which the defendant shall be
- 4 doing business?
- 5 MS. MURRAY: No, Your Honor. If I
- 6 understand your hypothetical, if we were to bring -- if
- 7 this Court decided that FELA did not address personal
- 8 jurisdiction at all, what would happen if we tried to
- 9 bring our suits in Montana Federal court is that that
- 10 Federal court would say, great, you have venue, but I
- 11 look to Rule 4 for personal jurisdiction --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: That's assuming we reach
- 13 that issue.
- 14 MS. MURRAY: Right. I suppose if this --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: We could just say
- 16 it's -- we could just say it doesn't apply to State
- 17 courts, it only applies to Federal courts.
- MS. MURRAY: You could.
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Whatever it does.
- 20 MS. MURRAY: You could, Your Honor. I think
- 21 that that would be, you know, certainly preferable for
- 22 us if there is still some availability of Federal court.
- 23 One thing that I would note, however, is that would sort
- of create a topsy-turvy scheme. I think when Congress
- 25 enacted FELA, it assumed that most of these suits would

- 1 be brought in State court.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But it would take care
- 3 of the question of the -- of where a plaintiff lives.
- 4 MS. MURRAY: It would take care of the
- 5 question of where a plaintiff lives.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: And, counsel, I -- I must
- 7 apologize.
- 8 It's 90 across Montana.
- 9 (Laughter.)
- 10 JUSTICE GORSUCH: 80 across Wyoming. I'm
- 11 very sorry, Mr. Chief Justice.
- 12 (Laughter.)
- 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Didn't I say 90?
- 14 (Laughter.)
- 15 JUSTICE BREYER: Anyway, your problem, I
- 16 guess, that you're trying to get around is that Daimler
- 17 had about 2.4 percent of its world sales in California
- 18 and was the largest seller of luxury goods in
- 19 California, luxury cars. And I suspect when you sell
- 20 luxury cars in California, it's really something.
- MS. MURRAY: Well, certainly --
- JUSTICE BREYER: They had a very big market.
- 23 And the problem is how do you get around that? And --
- 24 and I know you're trying, and it's a -- making a valiant
- 25 effort and so forth, but -- but I don't really see the

- 1 difference.
- MS. MURRAY: Well, Your Honor, we hope it's
- 3 more than a valiant effort in the sense that we do think
- 4 that there are key distinctions not just in the numbers
- 5 here in terms of the track and employees and business,
- 6 but in terms of the nature of the industry --
- 7 JUSTICE BREYER: What percent -- what
- 8 percent of their total operation is in Montana?
- 9 MS. MURRAY: We know that they get up to
- 10 10 percent of their revenue in the State of Montana,
- 11 which, given that they operate in 28 States and a couple
- 12 Canadian provinces, it has to be the case that that is
- 13 disproportionately large compared to the other States in
- 14 which they operate.
- JUSTICE BREYER: Good point.
- 16 MS. MURRAY: And -- and if -- if I could
- 17 come back to -- to your question, Justice Sotomayor,
- 18 about if -- if plaintiffs were able to bring these
- 19 claims in Federal court versus State, that would
- 20 certainly be preferable. Then they -- they couldn't
- 21 bring it --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: But that would -- that
- 23 would depend on it being it's a personal jurisdiction
- 24 provision, not just a venue provision.
- 25 MS. MURRAY: That's -- that's correct.

- 1 JUSTICE GINSBURG: If it's a venue
- 2 provision, which this Court said it was, then you -- you
- 3 satisfy the venue requirement, but not personal
- 4 jurisdiction.
- 5 MS. MURRAY: That's right, your -- Your
- 6 Honor, and I -- what would happen in that case is that
- 7 Mr. Nelson, for example, living in North Dakota, would
- 8 be headed to Washington, Texas, or Delaware to bring his
- 9 claim. That would be the reality, despite what Congress
- 10 intended when it adopted and it -- or amended FELA in
- 11 1910. But in --
- 12 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But what is -- what is
- 13 his state of residence?
- 14 MS. MURRAY: He is a North Dakota resident.
- 15 And -- and was injured, you know, in -- in the State of
- 16 Washington. Again, I think an example of how far these
- 17 workers frequently travel in order to bring their -- or
- 18 frequently travel in the course of their -- their work
- 19 for BNSF, it, in many ways, is simply a coincidence
- 20 whether they're injured at home versus injured somewhere
- 21 else, and of course, they would have no way of knowing
- 22 that in advance.
- 23 But I -- I would say with respect to
- 24 bringing suit in Federal court, I don't think it would
- 25 completely solve the problem in this sense. You know,

1 when Congress thought these cases would be brought in 2 State court, it didn't want them removed -- or, at least where plaintiffs chose to file them in State court, it 3 did not want them to be removable. And I think part of 4 5 that is because these are personal injury cases. Some 6 of them are low -- low-dollar claims. Congress wanted 7 the -- the plaintiffs to have their choice of forum too, with respect to, you know, if you want to take this kind 8 9 of claim to a State court judge for whom this is the 10 bread and butter of their docket, you can do that. And I think if you were to -- to limit these types of claims 11 12 to Federal court in Montana, for example, or on the 13 doing-business rationale, one, plaintiffs would still be 14 very limited in terms of where they could choose State courts, but it also wouldn't be as easily accessible to 15 16 them. I mean, most of the time, Federal courts you only 17 have one or two in a State, and so it's not going to be as readily available of a forum for injured workers who, 18 19 you know, certainly as compared to the railroads, are 20 going to be far more burdened by a rule like that. 21 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Ms. Murray, one of the rationales that Montana relied on was that Daimler 22 23 applied only to foreign corporations, and I didn't see the briefs really grapple or attempt to defend that. 24

Do you -- do you concede that that's

25

- 1 erroneous?
- MS. MURRAY: We don't -- we think the way
- 3 that the Montana Court framed it, I think, is not a
- 4 helpful one to think about it.
- 5 What -- what I would say is this: I don't
- 6 think that you can simply say Daimler doesn't apply
- 7 because it was a foreign corporation.
- But I do think Daimler, as earlier general
- 9 jurisdiction cases had recognized, continued to
- 10 recognize the nature of context matters. And so
- 11 certainly, I think once you start moving up the
- 12 corporate chain, once you start hopping into other
- 13 continents and having to impute -- to the extent that
- 14 that is actually appropriate -- having to impute
- 15 contacts of a subsidiary, I think the nature of the
- 16 contacts becomes so attenuated, that at that point that
- 17 transnational element of Daimler actually does play a
- 18 role; it's just not a dispositive one.
- 19 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Thank you.
- 20 MS. MURRAY: If the Court has no further
- 21 questions.
- 22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
- Mr. Tulumello, nine minutes.
- 24 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF ANDREW S. TULUMELLO
- ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER

- 1 MR. TULUMELLO: Thank you, Mr. Chief
- 2 Justice.
- Just a couple points. First, the Montana
- 4 Supreme Court held that it did not need to apply this
- 5 Court's decision in Daimler based on Daimler's
- 6 transnational facts and because BNSF is a domestic
- 7 railroad. We think neither rationale is persuasive.
- 8 And at least with respect to railroads being
- 9 unique, we don't read these -- this Court's due process
- 10 cases as saying due process protection depends on the
- 11 particular line of business that you're in.
- 12 There are -- you know, as to movement and
- 13 ownership of property, there are many industries, cable
- 14 companies, agriculture businesses, and so forth, that
- 15 have physical plants and that transport people across
- 16 the country.
- 17 And then with respect to FELA, we don't
- 18 think it would be helpful or faithful to the text or
- 19 legislative history to interpret Section 56 in a way
- 20 that grants personal jurisdiction when no other special
- 21 venue statute or general venue statute has ever done so.
- So we respectfully ask that the Montana
- 23 Supreme Court judgment be reversed.
- 24 Thank you.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.

Τ	mank you.
2	The case is submitted.
3	(Whereupon, at 11:56 a.m., the case in the
4	above-entitled matter was submitted.)
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