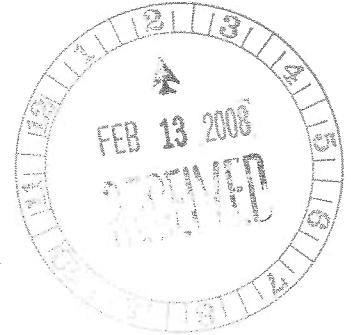


January 31, 2008

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Canadian National Railway Company, et al – EJ&E West Company
(EJ&EW) STB Finance Docket No. 35087



Dear Secretary Williams:

I am writing to convey SEMCOG's, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, support of the Canadian National Railway Company's (CN's) proposed acquisition of the EJ&E West Company (EJ&EW). We are pleased that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) has determined that this be handled as a minor transaction. We urge the STB to approve this acquisition as expeditiously as possible.

As you know, Chicago is host to the major east-west hub for rail traffic in the U.S. While it serves a vital purpose, it also suffers from major congestion and, as a result, causes delay for rail traffic regardless of whether it is Chicago-bound or pass-through to eastern metropolitan areas, such as Southeast Michigan. CN's proposed acquisition would allow traffic to route trains around the congested Chicago rail system, thereby reducing the travel time of goods moving to and from Southeast Michigan. This should also enhance the rest of the rail system by removing unnecessary CN trains from the currently congested rail components. Finally, this transaction will result in economic, energy, and emissions benefits for the Chicago/Indiana/Southwest Michigan area.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Tait, C.A.E.
Executive Director
SEMCOG

PT:ab

Surface Transportation Board

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