



THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

LA CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE DU CANADA

The Voice of Canadian Business

Le porte-parole des entreprises canadiennes

June 26, 2008

Ms. Anne Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
United States

*Office of the President and
Chief Executive Officer
Cabinet du président
et chef de la direction*

Re: *Canadian National Railway Co., et al. – Control – EJ&E West
Company, STB Finance Docket No. 35087*

Dear Acting Secretary Quinlan:

On behalf of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, I am writing in support of CN's proposed acquisition of the major portion of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E).

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1925 and is the largest, most influential advocate for business in Canada. The Chamber's mission is to foster a strong, profitable, and competitive economic environment. Today we represent over 350 chambers, close to 70 business associations, and many corporate members.

CN's proposed acquisition of the EJ&E would benefit the railroad industry and rail customers in North America who utilize rail service by reducing railroad congestion in the Chicago region. As Chicago is the rail hub for North America, more efficient freight movements through the region would be advantageous for shippers located in both Canada and the U.S.

To put this in perspective, trade between Canada and the United States is vital to the economies of both nations. More than C\$1.6 billion of goods and services cross the U.S./Canada border each day. While the majority of this freight moves by truck over often-congested highways and border crossings, rail cross-border movements account for a significant portion of these freight movements. Canada

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and the United States are each other's largest trading partner, with Canada providing an important market for U.S. products. In fact, Canada is the largest trading partner for Illinois and Indiana and 34 other states. Illinois exports to Canada in 2006 totalled C\$12.1 billion, while Indiana exports to Canada reached C\$9.5 billion. According to a study commissioned by the Embassy of Canada, more than 304,000 Illinois jobs and nearly 148,000 Indiana jobs are supported by Canada/U.S. trade.

I would also like to point out that CN, like many other Canadian companies, has a rich heritage in and strong connections not only to Canada but to the United States as well. The company's roots in the United States trace back more than 150 years to such companies as the Grand Trunk and the Illinois Central, among others. Today CN has a substantial and beneficial presence in the United States. It makes significant investments and tax payments in the U.S. and has thousands of U.S. employees. In addition, although CN is a Canadian company, much of it is owned by U.S. residents.

Fluid transportation movements are essential to commerce between the U.S. and Canada. CN's proposed transaction will improve the efficiency of cross-border rail movements by reducing rail congestion in Chicago and streamlining and enhancing operations on the broader rail network. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce urges the Surface Transportation Board to complete its ongoing environmental review and approve this transaction as expeditiously as possible, to the benefit of shippers in the United States and Canada and Canada/U.S. trade.

Thank you for your consideration of the Chamber's views. Please include this letter in the public docket for this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Perrin Beatty

cc: Victoria J. Rutson, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have this 27th day of June, 2008, served copies of the foregoing letter, transmitting a support letter from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce upon all known parties of record in this proceeding by first-class mail or a more expeditious method.


Jared H. Powell

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CN-45

June 27, 2008

BY E-FILING

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**Re: Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation –
Control – EJ&E West Company (STB Finance Docket No. 35087)**

Dear Ms. Quinlan:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced docket is a letter by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in support of the proposed acquisition of control of EJ&E West Company by Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation. We understand the signed original is being mailed directly to the Board.

Very truly yours,



David A. Hirsh

Counsel for Canadian National Railway Company
and Grand Trunk Corporation

Enclosure

cc: All parties of record