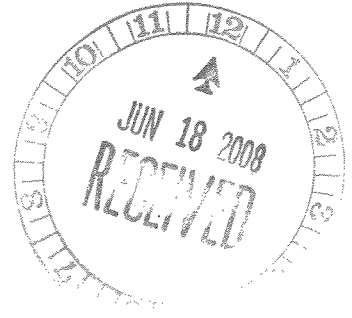




June 16, 2008

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

RE: Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Acting Secretary Quinlan:

My name is Howard Vaughters. I am a former executive of the CN Railroad, having retired five years ago as Division Vice President of Sales, after 36 years of railroad service.

In my deep experience in the marketing field, I know first-hand the value of service to our customers. Even in times of relative economic strength, all manufacturers and producers are very sensitive to all of their costs, including transportation. Inefficiency in this part of the production chain is of great concern for customers. From the perspective of the railroad companies, there are relatively few opportunities to make a significant impact that results in a dramatic improvement to the customers and their operations. In turbulent economic times like we are in now, the pressures to control costs are even greater, both on the side of the service provider as well as the customer.

CN is on the verge of a dramatic improvement in customer service with their desired investment in the property of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway. A successful integration of this railroad, when taken with CN's existing properties, not only offers an attractive option for competing in other market areas, but another benefit by reducing the amount of time a customer's shipments remains in transit. A consistent improvement in transit time is of immense benefit to the customer, as they can plan much more easily for regular flows of their own product and minimize the amount of inventory they are required to carry.

Congestion in the Chicago area has been a chronic issue for most of my career, and CN's acquisition, if approved, will clear up at least some of those issues.

Your development of an EIS is a process that cannot be taken lightly. However, it is my understanding that the amount of resources you have been able to dedicate to this study, plus the amount of time already spent on these activities, is very significant. Given the relative size of this acquisition, compared with far larger acquisitions approved in the past, it would seem that your final decision can and should rightfully be forthcoming in the near future.

I highly recommend you approve this transaction as soon as possible, as our ongoing economic challenges are continuing to put more and more pressures on the users of railroad services in the U.S. today. Help make this private investment happen, for the benefit of all CN's customers who need their services.

Sincerely,

cc: U.S. Senator Dick Durbin
U.S. Senator Barack Obama