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Committees:

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Mass Transit
Smart Growth & Regional Planning
Health Care Availability & Accessibility

January 8, 2008

Michael W. Tryon

Secretary Vernon Williams State Representative • 64th District

U.S. Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street SW

Washington, DC 20423

Dear Secretary Williams:

I am writing with regard to the application filed by the Canadian National Railroad (CN) seeking regulatory authorization to acquire the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company (Docket #FD35087).

I am a State Representative from Northern Illinois and I represent the citizens of the south half of McHenry County. The Elgin, Joliet & Eastern (EJ&E) rail line currently operates in northeastern Illinois and northwestern Indiana over 198 miles of track consisting primarily of an arc around Chicago extending from Waukegan, IL southward to Joliet, then in an easterly direction to Gary, IN.

As you are aware, the Chicagoland area is the crossroads of rail transport exceeding many other metro areas capacities. Illinois has always had a very good and positive history of working with the Illinois railroad industry fostering an economic engine for our state.

If the primary purpose of the EJ&E acquisition is to allow CN trains to bypass the rail congestion in Chicago's crossroads by dispersing CN trains along the EJ&E arc on the periphery of the Chicago metropolitan area, then I would like to request that the timing of all these rail crossing and movements be coordinated to minimize the impact on McHenry County constituents already congested travel. I would encourage you to work with the local units of government impacted by the acquisition to provide optimal scheduling to minimize the impact and congestion. I appreciate your consideration of my concerns.

If I may be of further assistance to you, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Tryon
State Representative
District 64

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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