



Village of
Elmwood Park

10414

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Jeff Sargent

August 19, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington DC 20423

Ref: STB Finance Docket #35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I am writing to express my support for the Canadian National Railroad's proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway in the far western regions of the metropolitan Chicago area. The proposed acquisition offers significant transportation benefits to our entire region.

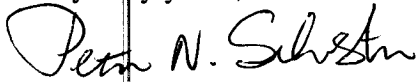
The amount of rail traffic through the greater Chicago region has grown two, three and four fold in many areas. In my own community, the number of trains coming through our densely populated community (12,500 residents per square mile) has tripled in the last twenty years. Over 119 trains pass through our village every day! Our community has four crossings within a one mile stretch through town. Emergency vehicles must cross these tracks every day. School buses must cross these tracks every day. Children, adults and senior must walk, bike or drive across these tracks every day. In fact, these tracks go right down the middle of our town every day. Any reduction in the number of these trains, or alleviation of future trains, will greatly benefit our community. This is similarly true for dozens of other municipalities in and near the City of Chicago.

The Chicago region was built on railroads. We must work to continue the viability of this important tool of commerce to continue to revitalize the regional economy. One could argue that this purchase could benefit the national economy as the cost of fuel, truck and airplane fuel, continues to sell at record levels.

When automobile traffic was choking the city and inner suburbs, the state and federal governments built Interstate 295 and 355 to the west of the city and inner ring suburbs. Isn't it logical to do the same with rail traffic? A decision in the affirmative will benefit us all, the city, the inner ring and more outlying communities.

Thank you for your consideration and best wishes for a fair resolution of this issue.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Peter N. Silvestri". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Peter N. Silvestri
Village President