

June 17, 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:

As a retired railroad employee, I have been following with interest stories of CN's attempt to get your permission to acquire most of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railroad. I believe that there is and has been for many years, a total ignorance of the role that railroads and other modes of transportation play in the strength of the national economy. Railroads move things over long distances much more cheaply than highways, waterways or airways can, and they do so safely.

If one were to believe everything that has been printed about the acquisition so far, one would think that CN's project will somehow result in the total annihilation of every community that the railroads run through. That makes no sense and is simply not the case.

We all know that some communities are better off than others. Whether those communities have railroads in them or not just does not mean that their way of life is threatened or not. Nothing in the world is so simple to be able to draw quick conclusions like that, as there are many other factors that determine how well a town or a village will do in the overall scheme of things.

CN's attempt to buy the Elgin, Joliet and East railroad must be supported, and quickly. The EJ&E is in existence today, and even though it runs through some affluent suburban communities, their residents already realize the savings that environmentally friendly and efficient train service brings to them as most of them they continue to buy good quality merchandise at moderate prices, or at least they have the ABILITY to purchase that merchandise at those prices. Take away train service, or in this case, discourage improvements in the country's train service, and all consumers will pay more for everything that railroads touch.

Please approve this transaction quickly.

Thanks,



Arlene R. Knudsen
9906 Shady Lane
Orland Park, IL 60462

cc: The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
SH-309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

fax: (202) 228-0400

cc: The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
SH-713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

fax: (202) 228-4260