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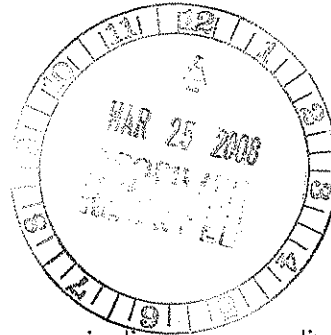


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The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Secretary Quinlan:



The Calumet Area Industrial Commission, an organization representing business and industry on the south side of Chicago and the South Suburbs, urges the Surface Transportation Board to approve the Canadian National Railroad's acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway (EJ&E).

Since 1967, the Calumet Area Industrial Commission has worked with the industrial & manufacturing companies on the far southeast side and southern suburbs of Chicago. We have a membership of over 130 companies examples of the more recognized members are Ford Motor Company, Kellogg's Snacks and Sherwin Williams but the membership includes many smaller companies that have operated in the area for over 50 years.

The EJ&E Railway will allow the Calumet Area on the southeast side of Chicago with a link to an international shipping network. This increases the value of the Illinois International Port District and will lead to further investment and jobs in the shipping industry.

In addition, the acquisition will be good for the economy of the Chicago Metropolitan region. Rail congestion slows the transport of goods to and from Chicago businesses, increasing costs to those products. This same congestion adds to shipping costs of businesses across the country as trains passing from the east to the west coast face delays as they pass through Chicago. If the rail congestion in Chicago is not addressed soon, shippers will find alternative means of shipping, resulting in a loss of revenue and jobs for the Chicago region.

In closing, the south side and south suburbs of Chicago need the economic development and jobs that the linking the EJ&E Railway to the Canadian National International shipping network will provide.

On behalf of the Calumet Area Industrial Commission, I urge you to approve the proposed acquisition of the EJ&E Railway.

Sincerely,

Jorge Perez
President

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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