



The Greater Centralia
ILLINOIS
Chamber of Commerce
& Tourism Office

03274. 012208. KELSHEIMER. CTZ. 62801

Johnson

January 22, 2008

Charles Nottingham
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W., Suite 1220
Washington, D.C. 20423-001

Dear Mr. Nottingham:

Attached is a Resolution regarding CN Railroads' Petition to the STB Finance Docket No. 35087, Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation, - Control- EJ&E West Company.

This Petition is of significant impact to the entire State of Illinois and we respectfully request that Amtrak's position, which has been adopted by the Greater Centralia Chamber of Commerce be given full weight and consideration.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Bob Kelsheimer
Bob Kelsheimer
Executive Director

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

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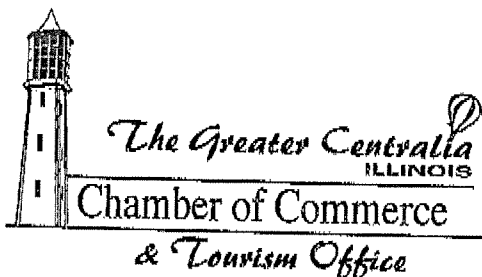
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RESOLUTION

Greater Centralia Chamber of Commerce Resolution

Resolution Supporting Amtrak's Position on CN Railroads' Petition to the Surface transportation Board Regarding Finance Docket No. 35087, Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation, - Control- EJ&E West Company

Centralia Chamber of Commerce Board Resolution Number 1-182008 adopted by unanimous vote this day January 18, 2008 is hereby adopted as follows:

The Greater Centralia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors supports the position of Amtrak as it relates to CN Railroads petition to merge with EJ&E and subsequently abandon its line into Chicago thus stranding downstate Amtrak riders who require service into Chicago Union Station.

Any such action should only be approved once the 11 mile Air Line Route north of 94th street is replaced by the alternative route known as the "Grand Crossing Route." By building this new connection route at Grand Crossing near 75th street where CN crosses the Norfolk Southern line significant advantage would be provided to the annual 400,000 Amtrak riders traveling into Union Station.

Students will be significantly impacted particularly in the Carbondale, and Champaign areas. The subsequent job loss and impact on local downstate economies will be devastating.

The city of Centralia had 15,000 users of its Amtrak station in 2007, up 57% since 2004. This is a regional issue that impacts the economy of area communities throughout downstate Illinois.

Further, significant negative environmental impact would be realized with individuals being given no alternative but to use personal transportation.

Therefore the Greater Centralia Board of Directors respectfully requests that the Surface Transportation Board not approve this petition by CN until this issue can be satisfactorily resolved by the suggested action heretofore stated.



1-18-2008

Date

Bob Kelsheimer

Bob Kelsheimer, Executive Director

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