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Sheila Thompson

146 E 162nd Lane South Holland, IL 60473

June 19, 2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: CN Railway Company/EJ&E
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Acting Secretary Quinlan:

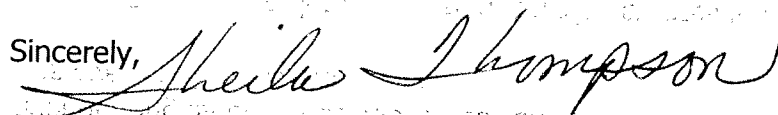
CN Railway has a plan to address the problem of freight train congestion by sending many of its freight trains to a portion of the EJ&E line around the city. In order to do this, they need approval in order to purchase this part of the EJ&E Railway. For the good of our area, I hope that you will grant permission to this move.

Although abundant transportation is very important to the prosperity of Chicago, there can become a time where the costs from heavy traffic cause the city and its surroundings to be more of a choke point than a source of vibrant economic activity. If CN is prevented from acting, that time may soon be upon us. Estimates are that if the current level of congestion is not addressed, Chicago will lose \$2 billion in production and 17,000 jobs over the next twenty years.

I see the problems that freight traffic creates in my daily life. Here in South Holland, I usually spend about a half an hour per week in my car waiting at the 170th Street crossing. Multiply that by all residents and commercial enterprises in this area, and one can get an idea of the magnitude of the problem. Additionally, so many freight trains traveling through crowded areas take away from our quality of life. It is very distressing, for example, to have my living room door vibrate when a train goes by.

CN's idea represents a commendable attempt to deal with a region-wide problem that requires a solution on a grand scale. Please approve this transaction as soon as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Sheila Thompson

cc: Senator Dick Durbin
Senator Barack Obama