

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

CAPITOL OFFICE

321 STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS 62706  
PHONE (217) 782-8181  
FAX (217) 782-4450

DISTRICT OFFICE

906 MUIR AVENUE  
LAKE BLUFF, ILLINOIS 60044  
PHONE (847) 735-8181  
FAX (847) 735-8184



COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS II  
VICE CHAIRMAN

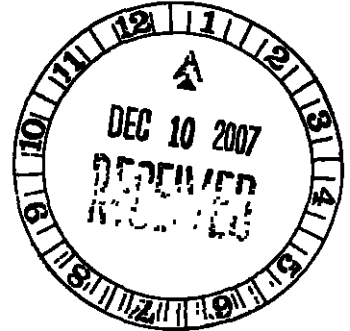
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
REVENUE

E-MAIL  
SENATOR@LINK30.ORG

220949

TERRY LINK

MAJORITY CAUCUS CHAIR  
STATE SENATOR 30TH DISTRICT



November 30, 2007

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings

DEC 10 2007

Part of  
Public Record

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20423

Subject. *Canadian National Railway Co., et al - Control - EJ&E  
West Company, STB Finance Docket No. 35087*

Dear Secretary Williams:

I write this letter in support of the proposal by Canadian National Railway Company (CN) to acquire control over the EJ&E West Company because I have concluded that this transaction will improve rail service through the Chicago metropolitan area and that it clearly will have no adverse effects on competition. I also ask that the STB complete its environmental review process and approve the proposed transaction as quickly as possible.

I am particularly pleased to learn that there will be a substantial reduction of train traffic over the CN line through my district from the current level of about 19 trains per day to 2 trains per day. This will create capacity for more frequent Metra trains, and will reduce environmental impacts within my district, including air emissions, noise and grade crossing delays. More significant for the national rail transportation network, removal of trains from lines through the center of Chicago will free up capacity for other carriers and reduce energy consumption and transit times for traffic moving through the Chicago gateway on CN as well as other railroads.

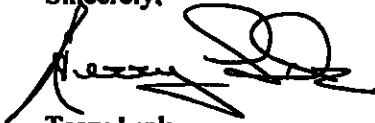
I recognize that as train traffic moves off of downtown Chicago rail lines, some communities along the EJ&E right-of-way will experience train traffic increases. I understand that the STB will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement that will assess the impacts of this increased traffic. The STB can impose conditions, if appropriate, to mitigate those impacts. I have been told by CN that it is reaching out to those communities to identify these issues, and to assist these communities in addressing them as appropriate.

However, these localized impacts, which will be addressed fully in the STB's environmental review, in my judgment do not outweigh the significant overall environmental benefits of this transaction on the region, or the transportation benefits of the transaction for shippers in Illinois and around the

county. I urge the Board to complete its environmental review process expeditiously, and to approve this transaction so that the residents of the 30th District and shippers from around the State and Nation can begin seeing the benefits it will bring.

Please enter these comments into the record of this docket

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry Link', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Terry Link  
State Senator -- 30<sup>th</sup> District

cc All Parties of Record