

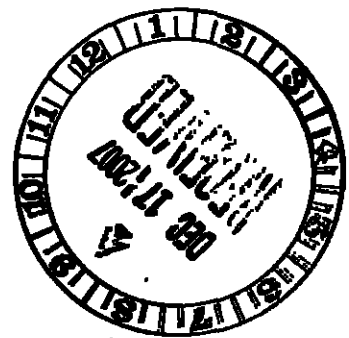
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Subject: Canadian National Railway Co. et al. - Control - FJ&E
West Company; SIB Finance; Docket No. 35087

Dear Secretary Williams:

In my role as Chair of the Illinois House Rail Committee, I have heard time and time again about the rail congestion problems plaguing the Chicago region. This congestion results in delays and other issues throughout the national rail system. If CN were to move much of its traffic to the E&M line, thus avoiding having to travel through the heart of the Chicago rail network, it could relieve some of the pressure on already overloaded facilities. This would also free up capacity for other carriers and reduce energy consumption.

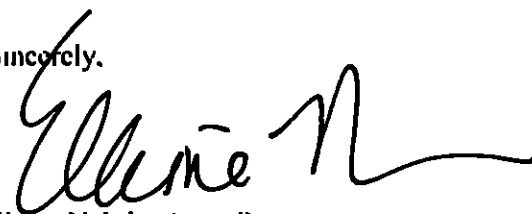
I recognize that as main traffic moves off of downtown Chicago rail lines, some communities along the EL&E right-of-way will experience train traffic increases. I understand that the STB will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement that will assess the impacts of this increased traffic. The STB 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.

Honorable Vernon A. Williams
December 4, 2007
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However, these localized impacts, 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 country. I urge the Board to complete its environmental review process expeditiously, and to approve this transaction so that the residents of the 57th District and shippers from around the state and nation can enjoy 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 "Elaine N.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elaine Nekritz, State Representative
Illinois House of Representatives