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June 24, 2008

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

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

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

Train congestion has become burdensome for the residents of La Grange Park and the only viable hope I see on the horizon is CN's plan to reroute freight train traffic in order to alleviate the problem. However, this would entail purchasing a segment of the EJ&E rail line running around the Chicago area. CN requires certain approval before it can proceed and I urge you to comply with their plan.

I recognize the need for the financial viability of freight transportation as it pertains to Chicago's overall economic plan. However, the delays caused by freight traffic through town are difficult to tolerate, they can last anywhere from five to twenty minutes. The interruptions of traffic are considerable enough that I tend to plan how I will best reach my destination by means of taking an overpass. I may also choose to shop at an alternate location if I have reason to suspect a significant delay en route to a specific merchant.

Obviously there is a problem when residents need to plan ahead for simple travel around town. This, coupled with the fact that it can take up to 24 hours for a freight train to make its way through the city of Chicago, will hopefully provide you with sufficient motivation to grant CN the permission it needs to acquire a portion of the EJ&E line and bring more sense and order to our rail network. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Toni Sorice

