

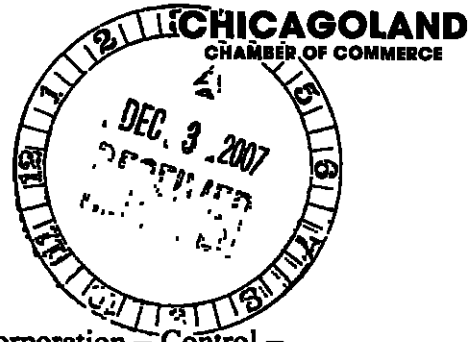
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220874



Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation - Control -
EJ&E West Company (STB Finance Docket No. 35087)

Dear Secretary Williams:

My name is Jerry Roper and I am President and CEO of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce. The Chicagoland Chamber is a business membership organization serving over 2600 members in the six counties of the Chicagoland region. I joined the Chicagoland Chamber in 1993 as the President & CEO.

In addition to my duties as President and CEO of the Chicagoland Chamber, I also serve on numerous boards in the community including the Mayor's Zoning Reform Commission, the Mayor's Council on Technology Advisors, the Chicago Workforce Board, and the Mayoral Task Force on Employment of People With Disabilities. I am also an outspoken advocate for the preservation of our regional aviation industry and served as President and Spokesman of the Midwest Aviation Coalition, a former organization that was dedicated to preserving Chicagoland's preeminence as the aviation capitol of the world. My aviation advocacy has also included service on the National Commission to Ensure Consumer Choice and Information in the Aviation industry as an appointee of House Speaker Dennis Hastert in 2002.

However, my advocacy for transportation is not limited to aviation. I am a strong advocate for Rapid Transit and High Speed Rail, and the key organizer behind the National Business Coalition for Rapid Transit. I am also a founding member of the Business Leaders for Transportation, which focuses on the various forms of transit and transportation that businesses and their employees use everyday.

I am writing to inform you that the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce strongly supports CN's acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern (the "EJ&E"). We have had a long and successful working relationship with CN and its predecessor railroads. In our view, this transaction is a good deal for all stakeholders.

Our numerous manufacturers and other industries in the Chicagoland area and in the region depend on good transportation and freight-rail plays a major role in their success. However, quite often the railroads serving our shippers encounter severe congestion in the Chicagoland region and that has an adverse impact on our companies. CN's acquisition of certain EJ&E assets is an important step toward improving that situation. The acquisition will more efficiently link CN's rail traffic coming in and out of the Chicagoland area. Without question, our rail shippers will

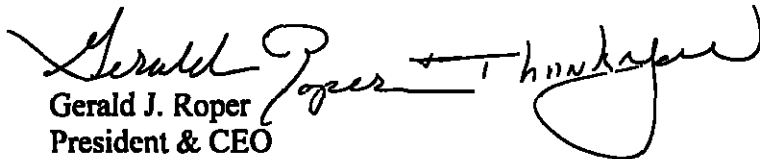
benefit from the streamlined rail operations and reduced congestion resulting over time, as well as the new efficiencies and operating improvements the acquisition will bring to CN's network. We also understand that many of these changes that will reduce traffic congestion are among the goals of the CREATE project around Chicago and that CN's acquisition and integration of the EJ&E will have the effect of advancing a number of CREATE's objectives more quickly.

In addition, the acquisition will be another step forward in CN's long-term commitment to reduce costs, improve service and to provide customers with more single-line market opportunities, all of which will be beneficial to Chicagoland Chamber members.

Finally, we urge the STB to categorize this acquisition as a "minor transaction" and approve it, so that Chicagoland and regional businesses as well as the community in general can begin realizing the benefits of this transaction as soon as possible.

Because of the numerous benefits that this acquisition will provide, the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the application.

Very truly yours,


Gerald J. Roper
President & CEO

cc. Parties of Record