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ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



KENNETH "KEN" DUNKIN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
5TH DISTRICT

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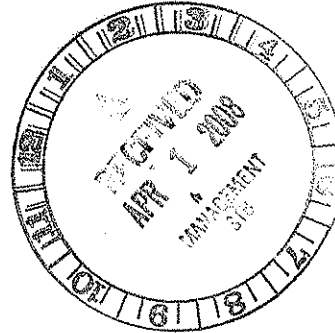
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March 19, 2008

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 6 trains per day to 0 trains per day. This will create excess capacity on the line thereby enhancing the prospect for more frequent Metra trains. Moreover, the transaction 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 I understand 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 5th 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,



Representative Kenneth Dunkin
Illinois House of Representatives
5th District

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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