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THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 205

465 EAST 170TH STREET • SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS 60473-3481

708.225.4000 • FAX: 708.225.4004

J. Kamala Buckner, Ph.D., Superintendent

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Curriculum, Instruction
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Accountability and Research
Dr. Paige A. Dague

Business Operations
Mr. Steven Gress

September 18, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

The Thornton Township High School District 205 Board of Education approved a resolution in support of the Canadian National acquisition of the EJ&E Railway at its September 17, 2008 regular meeting. Please accept the attached resolution for your records and consideration of the Surface Transportation Board. District 205 is in favor of the acquisition and the relief in traffic congestion it will bring.

Thank you for your time in this matter. If you have any questions, or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact me (708-225-4083).

Thank you,

Jerry B. Doss
Thornton Township High Schools District 205
Public Information Office and External Grants Coordinator

Cc: The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Ms. Kim Waller, Principal
THORNRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
15000 Cottage Grove Ave.
Dolton, Illinois 60419
708.841.5180

Dr. Betheny Lyke, Principal
THORNTON HIGH SCHOOL
15001 Broadway Ave.
Harvey, Illinois 60426
708.596.1000

Mrs. Darcelle Williams, Principal
THORNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
17101 South Park Ave.
South Holland, Illinois 60473
708.339.7800

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOLS DISTRICT 205

Relative to supporting the Village of South Holland, START and the Municipal Conference Urging the Federal Surface Transportation Board to Approve the Acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad Company by the Canadian National Cooperation to relieve Traffic Congestion in South Cook County.

WHEREAS, one third of to the nation's freight rail traffic moves to, from or through Chicago area every year making it the transportation hub of North America, and

WHEREAS, rail congestion has significantly slowed freight traffic through the Chicago region to the point where it can now take a freight train 24 hours to travel the thirty miles through the City of Chicago, slowing rail transportation nationwide; and

WHEREAS, opening up capacity on urban rail lines means that all rail traffic will move more efficiently and smoothly through the city; and

WHEREAS, freight trains are three times more fuel-efficient and emit one-third less pollution than trucks carrying comparable loads, thereby lessening the drain on the nation's energy reserves; and

WHEREAS, a typical freight train carries the equivalent of 280 truck-trailer loads, thereby alleviating highway congestion by keeping time-sensitive freight on the rails rather diverting to highways; and

WHEREAS, rail transportation is crucial to the region economically touching five million jobs nationwide; and

WHEREAS, if the problem of rail congestion in the region goes unchecked, it could cost the region \$2 billion in production and with impacts on 17,000 jobs over the next two decades; and

WHEREAS, Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Program (CREATE) a model public-private partnership initiated more than five years ago developed a comprehensive long term plan that would revitalize the area's transportation network by reconfiguring rail traffic through the Chicago Metropolitan region; and

WHEREAS, the CREATE comprehensive plan still hasn't received full government funding, even though it has had wide support from every level of government, the private sector and a broad cross-section of non-governmental groups and organizations; and

WHEREAS, Canadian National Railway Company, a founder and strong proponent of CREATE since its inception, has proposed rerouting its traffic from the congested urban rail lines to the under-utilized Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway at its own cost and expense, thereby opening up new capacity on those urban lines; and

WHEREAS, by rerouting its traffic, Canadian National Railway Company will relieve freight congestion on many of the Chicago region's lines, thereby reducing travel times, pollution from idling trains and costs resulting from shipping delays; and

WHEREAS, the West Central Municipal Conference having voted unanimously to support the acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway by the Canadian National Railway Company.

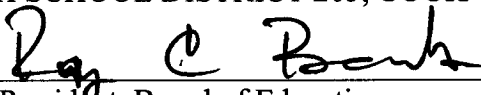
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Thornton Township High Schools District 205 is joining the Municipal Conference, START, The Village of South Holland and other municipalities and governmental bodies in

urging the Surface Transportation Board of the U.S. Department of Transportation to approve the application of the Canadian National Railway Company to acquire the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company as a valuable enhancement of the region's rail network; and

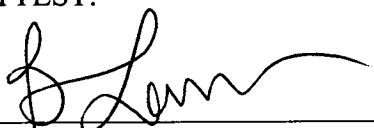
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Acting Secretary of the Surface Transportation Board.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOLS DISTRICT 205 EXECUTED
THIS 17th DAY OF September, 2008.

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THORNTON TOWNSHIP
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 205, COOK COUNTY, IL

By: 
President, Board of Education

ATTEST:


Secretary, Board of Education



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