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January 25, 2008

Charles D. Nottingham  
Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E. Street, S.W.  
Suite 1220  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Chairman Nottingham,

Fast and dependable train service is important to me, my community, and to the entire Midwest region. It will become even more important as gasoline prices continue to increase and the baby boom generation enters retirement age.

The application submitted by the Canadian National Railroad does not adequately address the future of the passenger trains linking Chicago to Champaign, Carbondale, Memphis, New Orleans, and 18 other cities.

These trains could experience longer travel times and increased delays as a result of this transaction. The cities along the route will be negatively impacted if the service quality deteriorates on this route. Also, since passengers connect between these trains and other trains at Chicago, deteriorated service on this corridor will impact passenger trains serving other parts of the country as well.

Therefore, I request that the Surface Transportation Board make the establishment of a new route, of the like or better quality, a condition of its purchase of the Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern Railroad. Building a new connection at Grand Crossing, combined with enhancements to the Norfolk Southern track into Union Station, is the only viable solution.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Jim Dixon  
305 Blackthorn Drive  
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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