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Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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June 3, 2008

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

**Subject: RE: Finance Docket No. 35087 – Canadian National Railway Company and
 Grand Trunk Corporation – Control – EJ&E West Company**

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

I am writing in support of CN's Request for Establishment of Time Limits for NEPA Review and Final Decision, filed in this proceeding on May 13, 2008.

I represent several communities in northeastern Illinois that would benefit from this transaction. With this sale, there will be a substantial reduction of train traffic over the CN line through my district from the current level of about 19 trains per day to two trains per day. This will create capacity for more frequent Metra trains and will reduce environmental impacts within my district, including air emissions, noise, and grade crossing delays. We are eager for this transaction to move forward so that we and the Chicagoland region generally, can begin to benefit from the reduced congestion that will result if this transaction is allowed to proceed.

I am aware that some are opposed to CN's request that the STB set target deadlines for completion of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and for issuance of a final decision on the proposed acquisition. I agree that the Board should get the information it needs, but CN's proposed schedule provides ample time for it to do so. It is important to remember, however, that the STB has been undertaking its environmental analysis since at least December 2007 and has provided many opportunities for interested citizens, community officials, and government agencies to provide comments, including the scoping meetings held in January 2008 throughout the region and the opportunity to comment on the draft Scope of Study.

I understand that in its final scoping decision, the STB's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has identified the issues that need to be studied in its EIS. Under CN's proposed timetable, SEA will continue to have sufficient time to complete its study of these issues and the public will have the opportunity to again provide input to the STB during the period that will be provided for comment on the Draft EIS.

This transaction promises important benefits to the Chicagoland region and to individual communities. I understand and support the need for a meaningful environmental review, but I respectfully suggest that the SEA has had sufficient time and resources to thoroughly study the environmental issues involved in this transaction and, under CN's proposed timetable, will still have more time to examine these issues and identify appropriate mitigation, where needed. The principles of good government dictate that governmental processes should not be open-ended. I urge you to adopt the time limits proposed by CN in its filing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Garrett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" and last name "Garrett" clearly legible.

Susan Garrett
State Senator, 29th District

cc: Victoria J. Rutson, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis