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CAROLYN H. KRAUSE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE - 66TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:

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ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

HEALTH CARE AVAILABILITY
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ADMINISTRATION

TELECOMMUNICATION

November 30, 2007

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Subject: Canadian National Railway Co., etat - Control - EJ& E
West Company, STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Secretary Williams,

I have had the opportunity to review the transportation impact of the proposal by Canadian National Railway Company (CN) to acquire control over the EJ&E West Company. I have concluded that this transaction will improve rail service through the Chicago metropolitan area and that it clearly will have no adverse effect on competition. I am glad that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) designated this as a "minor" transaction, as defined by the STB in its Railroad Control regulations, and 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 substantial reduction of train traffic over the CN line through my district from the current level of about 19 trains per day to 2 trains per day. This will create capacity for more frequent Metra trains, and will reduce environmental impact 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 acknowledge 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 looking at the impact of this additional traffic in the context of the environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act, and that the STB may 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.

I do not believe that these localized impacts, which will be addressed fully in the STB's environmental review, outweigh the significant overall environmental benefits of this transaction on the region, much less the transportation benefits of the transaction to our nation. I urge the Board to complete its environmental review process expeditiously, and to approve the transaction in the public interest.

Please enter these comments into the record of the docket.

Sincerely,

Carolyn H. Krause
Carolyn H. Krause
State Representative - 66th District
Illinois House of Representatives

cc: All Parties of Record

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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