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April 25, 2008

Anne K Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street. SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087
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Re: Statement of Opposition to Canadian National Railway's Proposed Acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad

Dear Acting Secretary Quinlan:

Metro West Council of Government is a nonprofit organization that represents municipalities in Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties in Illinois. While Metro West Council of Government supports improvements to freight movement systems in the United States, we share the concerns expressed by some of our municipal members, especially the Cities of Aurora, Elgin and West Chicago and the Village of Wayne. We call upon the Surface Transportation Board to take the following concerns under serious consideration while considering approval of the proposed acquisition:

- 1) Increased rail traffic congestion in the communities along the rail lines resulting in environmental, traffic and quality of life concerns.
- 2) Serious delays to emergency vehicle response times. This would affect not only the aforementioned communities, but also the surrounding communities that supply mutual and automatic aid response teams to support the areas blocked by the increased rail traffic.
- 3) Impact on existing and proposed quiet zones.
- 4) Extraordinary direct and indirect costs to local governments and the public to mitigate the negative impacts.
- 5) Impact on the feasibility and viability of the STAR Line rail project.
- 6) Impact of increased vibration levels on Fermi Lab and Argonne Laboratories.

We respectfully request the Surface Transportation Board to conduct a more detailed analysis of the potential impacts before making a final decision on this issue. Should the purchase of the E.J.

&E. be approved, Metro West Council of Government strongly urges that the Canadian National Railway be required to work with the affected communities and provide sufficient funding to mitigate the negative impacts.

Thank you, in advance, for your thoughtful consideration of our request on this issue. Please contact me if you have any questions about our position.

Sincerely,



Stephen K. Pickett
President

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Gilberts - Hampshire - Lily Lake - Maple Park - Montgomery - North Aurora - Oswego - Pingree Grove - St. Charles
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