



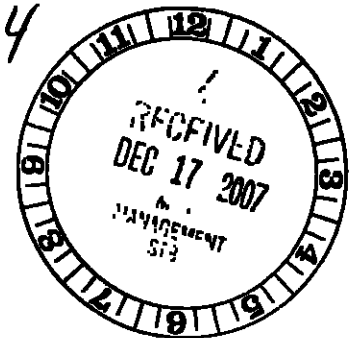
moving business forward

December 5, 2007

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation
– Control – EJ&E West Company (STB Finance Docket No. 35087)

**VERIFIED STATEMENT
OF
David Ross
On behalf of
The Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce**



ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
DEC 19 2007
Part of
Public Record

My name is David Ross and I am President & CEO of the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce – a position I have held for 10 years.

With its extensive rail network, international airport, and port with access to the St. Lawrence Seaway, Duluth stands out as the economic hub of northeastern Minnesota. The Duluth Area Chamber serves as the premier advocate for commerce and industry by facilitating interaction among business, government, education, labor, and the community. We create innovative opportunities for businesses to advance within a global economy. The Chamber also serves our members by providing business advocacy, collaborative leadership, and member-driven initiatives.

International trade is one of the keys to the economic vitality of Northeastern Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin. Few can argue that global demands for natural resources underpin our economy. Fewer still can argue that the success of our premiere industries is due to both importations of supplies and exports of finished goods. Because the success and overall health of our economy relies on trade, we firmly believe that we need to improve the efficiency of the transportation network that connects us to the rest of the world.

Since our businesses and communities are located nearly 500 miles north of Chicago, connectivity to distant markets is imperative. Rail service plays a major role in what we do so anything that reduces transit times strengthens our connection to the rest of the world. At the same time, anything that delays our shipments reduces our connection to the world. The train congestion in Chicago is one of those factors that affects our connectivity and makes our region less competitive. It should not take longer for a train to get through Chicago than it does for the same train to make the trip all the way from Duluth to Chicago. That's why the Duluth Chamber of Commerce strongly supports CN's acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern (EJ&E). This transaction will improve our economic connection to the rest of the world and improve our competitiveness as a region

- We also look forward to additional benefits from the streamlined rail operations and efficiencies the acquisition will bring to CN's network. We urge the STB to consider this acquisition as a minor transaction and approve it, so that Duluth and Northeastern Minnesota can benefit from the transaction as soon as possible. The Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the application.

Sincerely,

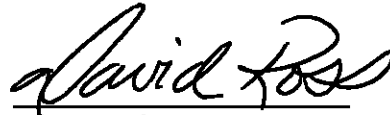
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Ross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Ross" clearly distinguishable.

David Ross
President & CEO

VERIFICATION

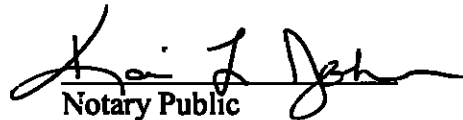
STATE OF Minnesota
COUNTY OF St. Louis

David Ross, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that (he/she) has read the foregoing document, knows the facts asserted therein, and that the same are true as stated,



David Ross

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of December 2007.


Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

1-31-2012

