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MATTOON, ILLINOIS: *Working Together to Build the Future*

January 28, 2008

Anne K. Quinlan, Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W., Suite 1220
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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Dear Acting Secretary Quinlan,

HDR

The application submitted by the Canadian National does not adequately address the future of the passenger trains linking Chicago to Champaign, Mattoon, Carbondale, Memphis, New Orleans and the other cities that are affected. The City of Mattoon has and will be making significant investments to the City's Inter-modal Depot to support the connection between rail and other transit systems. Ensuring a strong transportation link between the City of Mattoon and the City of Chicago is crucial to the continued economic health of the City. Annually 32,000 passengers rely on fast and dependable train service from the Mattoon Depot as it has become even more important as gasoline prices continue to increase. The City of Mattoon and the other communities that are along the route will be negatively impacted if the service quality deteriorates on this route. Since the passengers connect between these trains and other trains at Chicago, deterioration of the service will impact passenger trains serving the entire country.

Therefore, the City of Mattoon request that the Surface Transportation Board make a finding that the Canadian National Railroad's application to acquire the EJ&E is a significant impact and should require the establishment of a new route, of like or better quality, a condition of the acquisition. Building a new connection at Grand Crossing, with enhancements to the Norfolk Southern track into Union Station, is the only viable solution to resolve the impacts of this acquisition.

Thanks you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

David W. Cline
Mayor-City of Mattoon, Illinois



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Commissioners
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Joseph McKenzie
Randy Ervin
Rick Hall

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