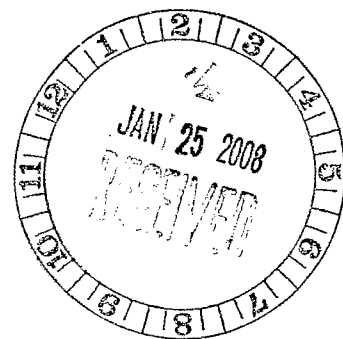




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January 25, 2008

Charles Nottingham
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W., Suite 1220
Washington, D.C. 20423-001

REF: Finance Docket No. 35087
Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation
-Control-
EJ&E West Company

Dear Mr. Nottingham:

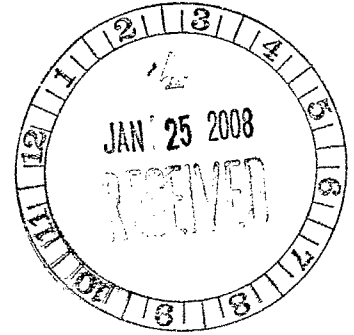
I wish to go on record as being opposed to CN Railroads' Petition to the STB regarding Finance Docket #No. 35087, Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation – Control – EJ & E West Company.

This petition would result in stranding Amtrak and its users and would effectively eliminate the City of New Orleans. The City of New Orleans operates daily round trips between Chicago and New Orleans. The Illini and Saluki, which is funded primarily by the State of Illinois, together provide two daily round trips between Chicago and Champaign, Centralia, and Carbondale.

Annually, over 400,000 people use Amtrak into Union Station. Not providing access to Union Station would result in a serious economic set back for all of Illinois. In particular, this would create a huge hardship to the thousands of college students in the Champaign and Carbondale area who rely upon this service daily. Students rely on this service for personal reasons, not only from the financial standpoint, but also the convenience of the train service. Some students would be forced to use personal transportation instead of the environmental friendly Amtrak service. This would result in a significant negative environmental impact. Other students would be left without any means of transportation to and from their homes and the colleges.

I support Amtrak's recommendation on the new route known as the "Grand Crossing Route" which would be an alternative should the Air Line Route be eliminated. However, no such route elimination should be granted until such time as the Grand Crossing Route can be fully funded and is completed.

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Manufacturing Facility
P.O. Box 1029
11525 IL Hwy 142
Mt. Vernon, Illinois 62864-0022



Downstate communities such as Centralia, who have 15,000 Amtrak passengers annually, would be dealt an additional economic blow to its already struggling regional economy. This is a regional issue affecting all communities in proximity to Amtrak service points throughout the State of Illinois.

I, therefore, respectfully request that CN's position in this matter not be granted until such time that the acceptable heretofore mentioned alternative is in place.

Respectfully,

Hank Eisenga
Vice President
Manufacturing

CC:

The Honorable Senator John O' Jones
103D Capital Bldg.
Springfield, IL 62706

The Honorable Representative Kurt Granberg
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

The Honorable US Congressman John Shimkus
US House of Representatives
2452 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515-1319

The Honorable US Congressman Jerry Costello
United States House of Representatives
2408
Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 2015-1312

The Honorable US Senator Dick Durbin
309 Hart Senate Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senator Barack Obama
713 Hart Senate Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Surface Transportation Board
CR-EI&E EIS - FD-35087
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