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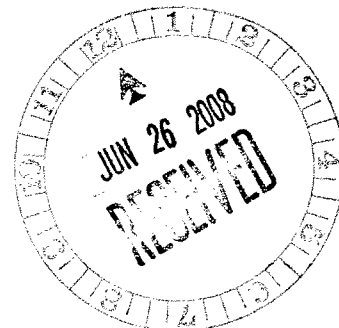


ATLAS RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION CO.

P.O. Box 8 - 1253 State Route 519, Eighty Four, Pennsylvania 15330 USA • 724/228-4500 FAX: 724/228-3183
Visit us on the internet at: www.atlasrailroad.com
William M. Stout, President

June 20, 2008

Secretary Anne Quinlan and STB Commissioners
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423



Subject: CN Railway Acquisition of EJ&E, STB Docket Number 35087

Dear Secretary Quinlan and Commissioners:

We are writing to express our company's support of the CN's proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway in Illinois. This acquisition promises to improve rail service throughout the Chicago area as well as infuse the local economy and railroad supply community with much needed infrastructure investment.

Our firm is a family owned fifty year old railroad engineering and construction enterprise. Our vital services augment the in-house work forces of operating railroads, large and small. We, and our fellow independent rail contractors, stand ready to provide safe, reliable, cost efficient support to this worthwhile project.

The American freight railroad system is an unprecedented success story. We boast the world's most efficient freight rail network and that is an important competitive advantage in a global economy. The freight rail system is important for the environment because it is a much more fuel-efficient way of moving freight than by highway or air.

Chicago is a major hub for North American rail traffic, and it currently suffers from congested rail corridors. Rerouting traffic from downtown to less congested EJ&E line will result in more efficient rail operations for all of the major railroads. The positive environmental benefits will far outweigh any negatives by some suburban communities.

We strongly support CN's Request for Establishment of Time Limits for NEPA Review and Final Decision. We do recognize that as train traffic is redirected, some communities along the EJ&E right-of-way will experience train traffic increases. The STB's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) identified in its final scoping decision the issues that need to be studied in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). SEA has been examining these issues for the last several months and has provided many opportunities for interested citizens, community officials, and government agencies to provide comments. Hopefully, SEA will continue to have sufficient time to complete its study of these issues and the public will have the opportunity to again provide input to the STB during the period that will be provided by SEA for comment on the Draft EIS.

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We understand and support the need for a meaningful environmental review. However, regulatory review should not be open-ended and should not be used to kill this important and beneficial proposed transaction. I urge the Board to complete its environmental review process expeditiously, and to approve the transaction as in the public interest.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. M. Stout", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Atlas Railroad Construction Company
William M. Stout, President

cc: Chairman Charles Nottingham
cc: Vice Chairman Francis Mulvey
cc: Commissioner Douglas Buttrey
cc: Environmental Analysis Section Chief Victoria Rutson