

Janina Gabrielow
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May 19, 2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

As the Chicago area has grown economically, it has become clear that our current infrastructure has become inadequate in performing its role. Our rail lines are taken up by freight trains to an alarming degree, jeopardizing the ability of residents to get around in a timely fashion. CN Railway's proposed purchase of a portion of EJ&E Railroad and its plan to divert a significant amount of freight traffic elsewhere represents a strong effort to remedy this situation.

As someone who has lived in Mount Prospect for 40 years, I have noticed the increasing presence of cargo trains on our rails and, unfortunately, on our streets. When driving, for example, I notice that I often get stuck at rail crossings due to freight trains that will not move. This inconvenience is not necessarily remedied by using public transportation, since passenger trains are also slowed down by the great number of freight trains on the rails. If this acquisition is approved, however, an average of 17 fewer freight trains per day will pass through my town, making these annoyances much less common.

While the presence of freight moving in and out of the area is something we would not want to eliminate, given that it is a sign of economic growth, we need to find ways to make this less of a burden for drivers and train riders. CN's proposal to use the EJ&E Railway as a location for this excess traffic will be very helpful in this regard. For these reasons, please approve CN's acquisition.

Sincerely,

Janina Gabrielow

cc: Senator Dick Durbin
Senator Barack Obama
Congressman Mark Steven Kirk

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