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January 22, 2008

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)

Dear Secretary Williams:

My name is Michael Mini and I am the Government Relations Director for the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce. The Chicagoland Chamber is a business membership organization serving over 2600 members in the six counties of the Chicagoland region.

I am writing to express our support for the CN's acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern (the "EJ&E"). We have had a long and successful working relationship with CN and its predecessor railroads. In our view, this transaction is a good deal for all stakeholders.

Our numerous manufacturers and other industries in the Chicagoland area and in the region depend on good transportation and freight rail plays a major role in their success. However, quite often the railroads serving our shippers encounter severe congestion in the Chicagoland region and that has an adverse impact on our companies. CN's acquisition of certain EJ&E assets is an important step toward improving that situation. The acquisition will more efficiently link CN's rail traffic coming in and out of the Chicagoland area. Without question, our rail shippers will benefit from the streamlined rail operations and reduced congestion resulting over time, as well as the new efficiencies and operating improvements the acquisition will bring to CN's network. We also understand that many of these changes that will reduce traffic congestion are among the goals of the CREATE project around Chicago and that CN's acquisition and integration of the EJ&E will have the effect of advancing a number of CREATE's objectives more quickly.

In addition, the acquisition will be another step forward in CN's long-term commitment to reduce costs, improve service and to provide customers with more single-line market opportunities, all of which will be beneficial to Chicagoland Chamber members.

Because of the numerous benefits that this acquisition will provide, the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce supports the application.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Mini".

Michael Mini  
Director of Government Relations  
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E BIS - FD-35087

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