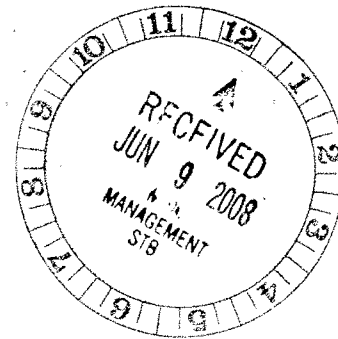


JAMES LANAM

1255 S. Leslie Lane
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May 23, 2008

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



Subject: *CN Railway Company/EJ&E*, **STB Finance Docket No. 35087**

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

Something must be done to alleviate the serious train congestion in Des Plaines. A solution to the congestion is critical to all residents of Des Plaines. Emergency vehicles and emergency personnel must be able to quickly get to emergencies and quickly return to the trauma center at Lutheran General Hospital. However, given the number of trains that currently run through our community blocking roadways, this life-saving requirement is not always viable. Thus, I support CN Railway's proposed acquisition of a portion of the EJ&E. This merger would allow CN to re-route many of CN's freight trains onto less-congested tracks, freeing up the tracks and roads in our community.

While Lutheran General is equipped to handle heart attacks and similar emergencies, the other hospital in Des Plaines is not. Therefore, if a resident has a heart attack, he or she is likely to go to Lutheran General for care. However, because of the train congestion in Des Plaines, there is a high risk of being stopped at a train crossing.

When every second counts in a life-threatening emergency, the train congestion in Des Plaines can be fatal for the patient. I have had a heart condition, and I credit my survival to fast access to care when I was living in Chicago near a hospital. Currently, in Des Plaines, if an emergency vehicle were stopped for two trains on the way to the hospital for a heart attack, the patient would suffer more damage or even worse, not make it.

The current situation also introduces more minor, though still important, inconveniences. For example, my wife works in Park Ridge, and I must sometimes pick her up. At times, I have sat for 20 minutes just waiting for a train to cross. I have also stopped for three trains on one trip.

Please approve CN's proposal and the resulting change that would reduce the serious rail congestion in this community. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Truly,


James Lanam

cc: Senator Dick Durbin
Senator Barack Obama
Congressman Peter Roskam