

Johnson Ball

Other Submissions

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Docket #: FD -35087 - -

Subject: * CN Application for EJ&E RR
 First Name: * John
 Middle Name: Howard
 Last Name: * Guidinger
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 Email Address: * jhguidinger@cai-engr.com
 Group/Affiliation:

Message: I am a frequent rider of Amtrak and commuter trains in the Chicago area. I also ride to the east out of Toledo, Ohio. Many of the passenger trains traveling to the south and east from Chicago, including the trains passing from Chicago through Toledo, are constantly delayed on the south side of Chicago due to freight train congestion. This is a problem that is getting worse, often resulting in delays from 30 minutes to two hours in length.

Concerning CN's application to take over the Elgin Joilet and Eastern, I understand that CN is proposing to remove one of EJ&E rail lines used by Amtrak trains traveling to the south from Chicago. This appears to me to be a plan to further consolidate the passenger trains on the one remaining line to the south from Chicago. This would appear to further exacerbate the present problem of freight train interference and worsen the delays to passengers.

I strongly oppose this plan and I hope that the STB will likewise oppose this plan as well.

I suggest that the STB study the feasibility of requiring CN to donate the line to be abandoned to Amtrak or to a commuter rail authority for passenger use and also require CN to install the necessary track connections for ready access by Amtrak trains.

Thank you

John Guidinger

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS FD-35087

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