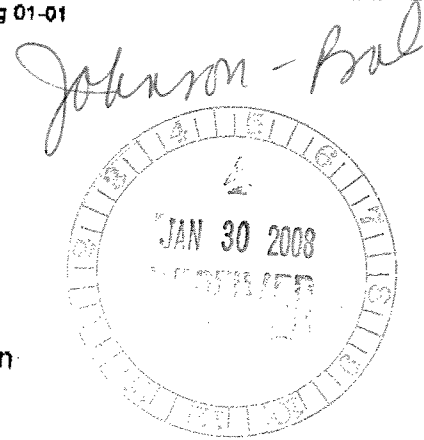


Charles D. Nottingham
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W., Suite 1220
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Regarding:
Finance Docket No. 35087
Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation
?Control?
EJ&E West Company

Dear Chairman Nottingham

Fast and dependable train service is important to me and to my community. It will become even more important as gasoline prices continue to increase.

Currently, I use AMTRAK to get into Chicago 3-4 times a year to visit friends and was planning to start using it, instead of dealing with all the traffic/roadwork, for volunteering at the Field Museum. I have neighbors that use the service more often for shopping trips, concerts, and going home. Having a economical, time efficient, and low stress means of getting in and out of the city is important to all of us whom use the service.

The application submitted by the Canadian National does not adequately address the future of the passenger trains linking Chicago to Champaign, Carbondale, Memphis, New Orleans and 18 other cities.

These trains could experience longer travel times and increased delays as a result of this transaction. The cities along the route will be negatively impacted if the service quality deteriorates on this route. Also, since passengers connect between these trains and other trains at Chicago, deteriorated service on this corridor will impact passenger trains serving the entire country.

Therefore, I request that the Surface Transportation Board make the establishment of a new route, of like or better quality, a condition of the merger. Building a new connection at Grand Crossing, combined with enhancements to the Norfolk southern track into Union Station, is the only viable solution.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Jesse Kurylo
212 W. California Ave
Urbana, IL 61801

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087
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