

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 19, 2007

22/131



The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

FD 35087

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Public Record

Dear Secretary Williams:

We write regarding Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation Control – EJ&E West Company, STB Finance Docket No. 35087 and ask that this letter be included in the public docket regarding this case.

The purchase by the Canadian National Railway Company (CN) of the major portion of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E) is widely expected to improve overall rail operations on the CN system by moving the concentration of CN trains from Chicago's congested urban core to EJ&E's lines outside of central Chicago. This will, in turn, reduce the overall volume and resultant delays caused by the high volume of rail traffic in Chicago. More importantly, reducing the rail traffic can improve rail safety in Chicago. Finally, because CN trains in Michigan pass through Chicago, reduced congestion and improved efficiency in the Chicago region will translate into improved rail services in Michigan.

We are pleased the Surface Transportation Board has determined this will be handled as a "minor" transaction. We hope the Board will proceed expeditiously with its preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement so that these benefits can be realized.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Debbie Stabenow


Carl Levin