



An Oshkosh Truck Corporation Company

10149

Iowa Mold Tooling Co., Inc.

500 Highway 18 West • P.O. Box 189 • Garner, IA 50438-0189 • P: (641) 923-3711 • F: (641) 923-6063

August 4, 2008

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

Subject: *Canadian National Railway Co., et al. – Control – EJ&E West Company*  
(STB Finance Docket No. 35087)

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

I am writing in support of the acquisition of the major portion of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E) by Canadian National Railway Company (CN). This transaction seeks to improve rail service in the Chicago metropolitan area, to the benefit of railroads and their customers, as well as the Chicago land region generally.

I represent Iowa Mold Tooling Co., Inc. (IMT), which manufactures cranes and truck-mounted equipment for a wide range of customers, including railroads, equipment dealers, construction companies, municipalities, mining companies, and oil producers. IMT is a wholly owned subsidiary of Oshkosh Corporation, a leading manufacturer and marketer of specialty vehicles and bodies.

The rail industry is an important part of IMT's customer base, and we understand the essential contribution that railroads make to the economic health of the nation. Especially at a time when rising fuel prices are highlighting the advantages of rail transportation from the standpoint of fuel efficiency, it is important that railroads be able to make best use of those advantages, and to avoid and minimize congestion that would choke the flow of rail freight.

Policymakers have long recognized that action needs to be taken to reduce rail congestion in Chicago, and CN's proposed acquisition would help to achieve this goal by rerouting CN traffic from downtown to the less congested EJ&E line in suburban Chicago. And because of Chicago's importance as a principal hub for rail transportation, efficient operations in Chicago would benefit the economy of the U.S. as a whole.

I respectfully request the Board to expeditiously approve this beneficial transaction as in the public interest. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Fairbanks  
President

✓ cc: Victoria Rutson, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis