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Automotive Resources International



July 7, 2008

Secretary Anne Quinlan and STB Commissioners
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 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 CN's proposed acquisition of the major portion of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E).

Automotive Resources International (ARI) is a global organization providing fleet vehicle management services for nearly four decades to North American railroads. In that role, we have a keen understanding of the growing importance of our rail system to America's economy. We also recognize the need for each railroad to continuously pursue improved efficiency.

Of course, the inherent efficiencies that will result from this acquisition will benefit CN and other railroads, but there are many communities in the downtown area that will experience reductions in train traffic and an untold number of businesses -- local, regional, national and global -- that rely on rail service who will realize improved service.

ARI has maintained an office in the Chicago area since 1963 and has served many of the city's top corporations. We know first hand that the City of Chicago is an important center for North American rail traffic and recognize the need to alleviate congestion of the rail corridors in Chicago. The proposed acquisition can do just that.

Of course, a meaningful environmental review to examine the impacts of moving train to the EJ&E should be and is being pursued. But once done, I urge the Board to complete its environmental review process expeditiously and to approve this beneficial transaction in the public interest.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

W. P. McKee
President

cc: Victoria Rutson, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
David A. Hirsh, Esq