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January 28, 2008

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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**Re: Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation – Control –
EJ&E West Company (STB Finance Docket No. 35087)**

Dear Secretary Williams,

On behalf of the Memphis Regional Chamber, the Memphis Regional Logistics Council and the Memphis Regional Economic Development Council, we encourage approval of the acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern (EJ&E) by the Canadian National Railroad (CN). The Memphis regional economy is strongly based upon logistics, and Memphis is one of only three cities in the United States that is served by five Class I railroads.

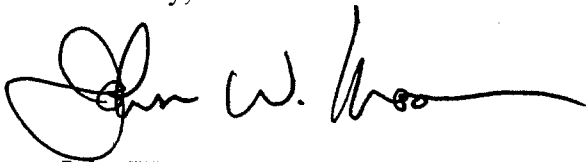
The Memphis region has had a long and successful working relationship with CN and its predecessor railroads. CN has shown its commitment to Memphis regional shippers by making major capital investments here to expand terminal capacity. CN's acquisition of the EJ&E will greatly benefit Memphis' rail shippers, as well as those from around the country which ship or receive traffic routed through the key Chicago gateway. Transit times for freight originating in our region for destinations accessed through the congested Chicago gateway will be reduced by CN's ability to route traffic over EJ&E lines and around the congested lines and yards in the core of the Chicago terminal district.

Numerous manufacturers and industries in Memphis and the region depend on efficient transportation, and freight rail plays a major role in their success. However, the railroads serving our shippers often must route traffic destined for points north, east or west through the congested lines and yards within the Chicago terminal district. The same is true in the reverse direction for goods and products coming into the Memphis area. The delays incurred in the Chicago terminal district drive up production costs. This results in greater overhead to maintain larger inventories to offset the delays. And, in some cases business opportunities in the markets beyond Chicago are impacted adversely because of routing through Chicago's congestion.

CN's acquisition of certain EJ&E assets is an important step toward improving the situation. The acquisition will permit CN to route traffic around the terminal district, thereby reducing congestion for rail traffic coming in and out of the Chicago area. Over time, our rail shippers will benefit from the streamlined rail operations and reduced congestion. We also anticipate improvements as the CN network brings new efficiencies to their operations. CN's acquisition of EJ&E will be another step forward to their long-term commitments to reduce costs, improve service and to provide customers with more single-line market opportunities. This will greatly benefit our region.

We respectfully request that the Surface Transportation Board approve the transaction as soon as possible so that businesses and industries in the Memphis region, and throughout the country, can begin to realize the cost savings and time-reduction benefits. Thank you for your prompt attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



John W. Moore
President and CEO
Memphis Regional Chamber

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

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Date Recd: _____

HDR File No. _____

Cc: Original Job File

cc: Parties of Record

HDR