

Earnest Watkins
8251 S. Peoria Street, Apt. 2
Chicago, IL 60620



July 18, 2008

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

RE: CN Railway Company/EJ&E
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

I am pleased to see that CN Railway has developed a plan to alleviate the train congestion in the Chicago area. Because this plan requires certain approval, I am writing in support of CN's proposed purchase of a portion of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern rail line. With your approval, CN will be able to reroute a number of freight train routes off of Chicago's more congested railways and onto this underused portion of railway that circumnavigates the area.

As a result of the railway congestion, I end up getting delayed at railroad crossings from time to time at West 83rd Place, but my prime concern is that trains spend too much time idling and do not get to their destinations in a timely manner. It can take up to 24 hours for a freight train to pass through the city of Chicago. In the past, I worked for a supermarket chain that depended on freight rail for produce and other products. I have always felt that freight trains are an efficient way to get these items. However, because of the time it takes a train to pass through the area, moving goods via rail is sometimes not very practical.

If you approve CN's plan, it would constitute a tremendous step in the right direction. Not only would clearing the congestion relieve delays, but it would also improve the efficacy of moving goods through the Chicago area by freight train. Thank you.

Yours Truly,

Earnest Watkins