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DAVID E. MILLER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
 29th DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:**CHAIRPERSON**

APPROPRIATIONS
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CO-CHAIRPERSON

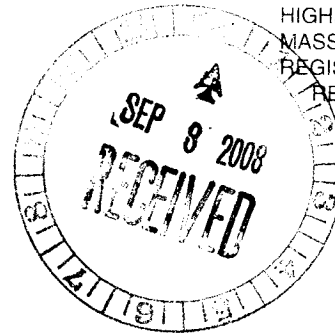
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
 PENSION FUND MANAGEMENT

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

TRANSPORTATION

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ELEMENTARY AND
 SECONDARY EDUCATION
 HEALTH & HEALTHCARE
 DISPARITIES
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 MASS TRANSIT
 REGISTRATION AND
 REGULATION



August 22, 2008

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

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

Dear Secretary Williams:

As a State Representative of the 29th District of Illinois for nearly eight years, and as Vice Chairman of the House Transportation Committee, this letter is to support the proposal by Canadian National Railway Company (CN) to acquire control over the EJ&E West Company. I believe that this transaction will improve rail service through the Chicago metropolitan area and ask that the STB complete its environmental review process and approve the proposed transaction as quickly as possible.

I am particularly pleased to learn that there will be a substantial reduction of train traffic over the CN line through my district from the current level of 22.1 trains per day to 2.9 trains per day. This will create excess capacity on the line and reduce environmental impacts within my district, including air emissions and noise. The reduction in the number of trains will be welcomed by motorists in my suburban district who often have the longest driving times and congestion caused by trains. More significant for the national rail transportation network, removal of trains from lines through the center of Chicago will free up capacity for other carriers and reduce energy consumption and transit times for traffic moving through the Chicago gateway on CN as well as other railroads. Some of the improvements which CN plans for its rail system are included in the goals of the CREATE project and that this transaction will advance many of the objectives of CREATE more quickly. This is very important to our community.

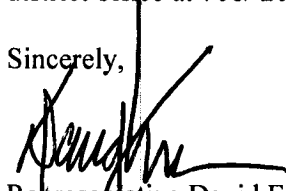
I recognize that as train traffic moves off of downtown Chicago rail lines, some communities along the EJ&E right-of-way will experience train traffic increases. I understand that the STB will be looking at the impacts of this additional traffic in the context of the environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act, and that the STB may impose conditions, if appropriate, to mitigate those impacts. I have been told by CN that it is reaching out to those communities to identify these issues, and to assist these communities in addressing them as appropriate.

I am also aware that some communities are opposed to CN's request that the STB set target deadlines for completion of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and for issuance of a final decision. CN's proposed schedule provides ample time for the Board to secure the information it needs. I understand that the STB has been undertaking its environmental analysis since December 2007 and has provided many opportunities for interested citizens, community officials, and government agencies to provide comments, including the scoping meetings held in January 2008. Under CN's proposed timetable, the STB's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has sufficient time to complete its study and the public will have once again an opportunity to provide input to the STB during the period that will be provided for comment on the Draft EIS.

I do not believe that these localized impacts along the EJ&E right-of-way outweigh the significant overall environmental benefits of this transaction much less the transportation benefits of the transaction to our nation and the Chicago metropolitan region. **I urge the Board to complete its environmental review process expeditiously, and to approve the transaction as in the public interest.** I believe that overall this acquisition will positively effect transportation and the quality of life of the residents that I serve.

Please enter these comments into the record of this docket. If you have any questions, please call my district office at 708/ 201-8000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David E. Miller", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Representative David E. Miller
Vice Chair, Illinois House Transportation Committee
Illinois State House of Representatives