



Mayor
Dr. Robert B. Donaldson

Clerk
Dr. Florine Robinson

Village Manager
Robert L. Palmer

Village of Hazel Crest

June 12, 2008

Trustees
Vernard L. Alsberry, Jr.
Roderick S. Bashir
Dr. Jane P. Brown
Lee Fantroy
Debra J. McGhee
Elizabeth A. Wakefield-Waldren

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan, Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

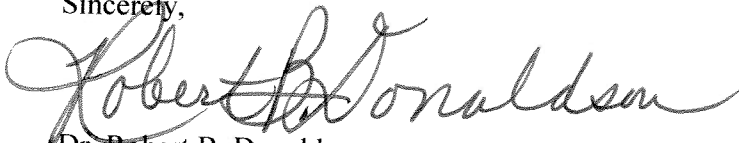
I urge the Surface Transportation Board to approve the Canadian National Railroad's acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway.

The future economic vitality and quality of life of the residents of the greater Chicago area and the south suburban region in particular depend upon continued investment in making our rail and highway systems more efficient. The rail industry has played an historic part in development of Chicago and its surrounding communities as transportation hubs. Increased freight traffic on our nation's rail system has created a bottleneck in the Chicago metropolitan region which threatens the future vitality of the rail industry in our region. The CN proposal to purchase the EJ& E Railway is a privately funded step in reducing this rail congestion.

As businesses move from the highway to the railway as a cheaper means of shipping their goods, rail congestion is only going to worsen, impacting quality of life, public safety and business vitality in our community. The Canadian National Railroad passes directly through our community and re-routing some of their trains around our community and the south suburbs will make life and business better.

I urge the members of the Surface Transportation Board to expedite approval of the CN acquisition of the EJ&E Railway. We cannot afford to lose this opportunity to strengthen the future economic vitality of the rail industry in our region.

Sincerely,


Dr. Robert B. Donaldson
Mayor

Cc: U.S. Senator Dick Durbin
U.S. Senator Barack Obama
Homewood Mayor Richard Hofeld
David G. A. McLean, O.B.C., LL.D.
Chairman of the Board
Canadian National Railway Company