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July 18, 2008

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Secretary Anne Quinlan, Esq.
And STB Commissioners
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 Quinlan:

I am writing in support of CN's proposed acquisition of the major portion of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E). This transaction will improve rail service in the Chicago metropolitan area, to the benefit of railroads and their customers as well as the Chicagoland region generally.

I represent Amsted Rail, a world leading manufacturer of railroad freight car and locomotive components with several manufacturing facilities primary located in the United States. We obviously have a vested interest in the overall efficiency of the North American railroad industry, but also as a company with a major footprint in the Chicago area, we strongly believe that major benefits will derive from the acquisition of the EJ&E by CN. The simple fact of having freight cars to move around Chicago rather than through Chicago will not only increase the railway network fluidity, but it will also give all American rail shippers a well deserved additional competitive edge by circumventing the important delays that plague this area. Faster transit time and reliable on-time delivery of products makes us that much more efficient. Moreover, in a time where fuel cost and environmental issues are so critical to all Americans, the impact of this acquisition by CN becomes a timely and natural fit. It is a well known fact that one gallon of diesel fuel moves one ton of freight by rail over 423 miles, while shipping by truck this same gallon of diesel fuel will only carry this one ton of freight over 105 miles. If we add to this equation that railroads emit three times less carbon dioxide then trucks, then we can only come to the conclusion that this acquisition is beneficial to everyone living in the Chicago area as well.

The City of Chicago is an important center for North American rail traffic, but the rail corridors in Chicago are congested. Policymakers have long recognized that action needs to be taken to reduce rail congestion in Chicago, and CN's proposed acquisition would help to reduce congestion by rerouting CN traffic from downtown to the less congested EJ&E line in suburban Chicago. The more efficient rail operations that will result will benefit CN and other railroads, as well as the business community that relies on rail service and the many communities in the downtown area that will experience reductions in train traffic.

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I also urge the STB to approve this transaction expeditiously, as proposed by CN in its request for establishment of time limits for the environmental review and for issuance of a final decision. I support a meaningful environmental review to examine the impacts of moving train traffic off of downtown Chicago rail lines to the EJ&E, particularly as some communities along the EJ&E right-of-way will experience train traffic increases. The STB's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has been examining these issues for the last several months and has provided opportunities for community residents and officials to comment on the transaction. Interested parties also will have the opportunity to provide comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on this transaction once it has been issued.

I urge the Board to complete its environmental review process expeditiously, and to approve this beneficial transaction as in the public interest.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,



John Worries
President

cc: David A. Hirsh, Esq., Harkins Cunningham LLP