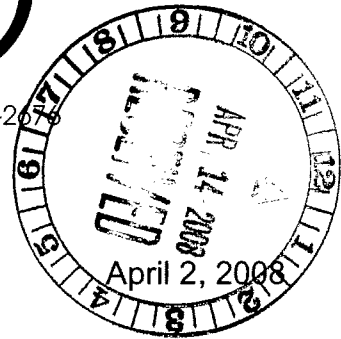




255 West Dundee Road • Wheeling, Illinois 60090-2678
Phone: (847) 459-2600 • Fax: (847) 459-9692

OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT



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

RE: Canadian National Railway Com., et al. – Control – EJ&E West Company, STB Finance Docket No. FD-35087-0

Dear Secretary Williams,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Wheeling, Illinois, I am writing to express support for the proposed acquisition of the EJ&E West Company by the Canadian National Railway Company.

One of our community's major thoroughfares, Dundee Road, has an at-grade crossing with the Wisconsin Central Line. Recent years have seen an increase in train traffic on that line, which has led to a commensurate increase in street-vehicle congestion. As in many of our neighboring communities, vehicular and train congestion in the Village of Wheeling is a problem that merits immediate attention. The acquisition of EJ&E West by Canadian National would permit Canadian National to re-route trains from the badly-congested Wisconsin Central Line to the less-congested EJ&E line, thereby positively impacting train and street traffic throughout the region.

Northeastern Illinois is among the United States' most vital transportation hubs, and any initiative that stands to increase the efficiency of both rail and vehicular traffic in this area deserves serious attention. The Village of Wheeling supports this acquisition, and we urge the Surface Transportation Board to review and approve it in a timely fashion.

Sincerely,

Patrick Horcher
Village President

CC. Village Trustees
Village Manager