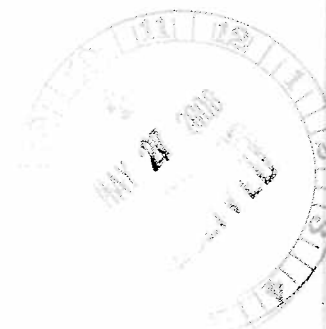


ILLINOIS CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

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May 22, 2008

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



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RE: Finance Docket no. 35087

Dear Ms. Quinlan,

As President and CEO of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to let you know of my concern about on-going delays in having the Surface Transportation Board establish a timeline for completion of the environmental impact study (EIS) that it is required for CN's proposal to acquire most of the Elgin Joliet & Eastern (EJ&E) Railway.

CN intends to make a significant private investment to help address freight rail congestion in the Chicago metropolitan area and remove uncertainty about the timeliness of the transportation supply chain. Sadly, there is no end in sight on the EIS process -- even after months of review by a significant number of engineers and professionals.

We certainly understand the importance of an EIS, but businesses deserve to have a fair and thorough review that is also timely. Businesses should have a sense of predictability in how long such a process will take as delays and schedules without any sense of finality work against good business planning, efficient investment and ultimately improved service for freight rail customers.

I encourage the Board to establish a date, certainly prior to the year end, and proceed to promptly complete deliberations on that schedule so CN will know if it can begin taking the necessary steps to improve transportation efficiencies in this region.

Sincerely,

Douglas Whitley
President and CEO

Cc: Ms. Victoria Rutson, Section of Environmental Analysis
Ms. Phyllis Ball, Section of Environmental Analysis