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Industrial Council

1000 East 111th Street, Chicago, IL 60628 Suite 1050 312-972-0285



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:

The Chicago Area Industrial Council, an association representing business and industry throughout the Chicagoland Area urges the Surface Transportation Board to approve the Canadian National Railroad's acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway (EJ&E).

The EJ&E Railway will allow the southeast side of Chicago with a link to an international shipping network. This increases the value of the Illinois International Port District and will lead to further investment and jobs in the shipping industry and provide an additional economic stimulus to an area that has seen renewed interest by industry over the past several years. This acquisition is seen as a compliment to both private and public investment and should be approved.

In addition, the acquisition will enhance for the regional economy of Chicago. Rail congestion slows the transport of goods to and from Chicago businesses, increasing costs to those products. This same congestion adds to shipping costs of businesses across the country, as trains passing through Chicago face delays as they pass through Chicago. If the rail congestion in Chicago is not addressed soon, shippers will find alternative means of shipping, resulting in a loss of revenue and jobs for the Chicago region.

Again, I urge you to approve the proposed acquisition of the EJ&E Railway. This will enhance the overall competitiveness of the Chicago area and provide employment opportunities throughout the shipping network.

Sincerely,

Jorge Perez
President

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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