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SENATOR JOHN J. MILLNER
28TH DISTRICT



July 2, 2008

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

Dear Acting Secretary Quinlan:

Many constituents in the communities I represent are genuinely concerned about the acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern rail line by the Canadian National Rail Road. They have provided details as to why this acquisition would have an adverse environmental impact in their communities. Subsequently, I have investigated their concerns and agree with their observations on how this will have an adverse impact on the environment, especially as it relates to public safety.

I served as a police officer and leader of many law enforcement organizations for over 30 years and have a thorough understanding of life threatening situations. Under the current situation, with the few trains that move through these communities, we have had situations where public safety officers could not reach those in immediate need, such as choking, heart attacks, serious accidents etc. If train traffic were to increase from four trains a day to twenty or more, situations like this would only multiply.

Our communities are expected to build public safety facilities, hospitals and other multimillion dollar infrastructure improvements, at their cost, to help prevent these dangerous and tragic situations from occurring. In these difficult economic times it is simply wrong to put this additional burden on our communities and our taxpayers. While I understand the importance of efficiently utilizing our rail lines to move goods throughout our state, I believe, based on existing data, that this sale would cause more harm than good.

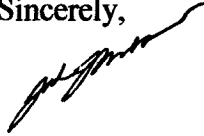
The Village of Wayne is in a unique situation where a good portion of the community is built between two rail lines. If those additional trains would start to roll, part of the community would be trapped between two trains making it impossible for police, fire and ambulances to tend to those in need until the trains pass. In a choking or heart attack situation, seconds count; those situations would be statistically more prevalent than they

are today. Additionally, the traffic congestion in all of the communities that stand to be affected would be so onerous that the local economy may be adversely impacted.

Therefore, I am appealing to you and the officials of the Surface Transportation Board to weigh this decision carefully and consider the genuine concerns of residents and communities.

As you know, your decision will have a lasting impact on thousands of people in the region. I thank you in advance for your consideration of my remarks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Millner", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John J. Millner
Senator
28th District