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CITY OF WAMAC

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Centralia, IL 62801
Phone 618-532-1138 Fax 618-532-4776

Jackie Mathus, Jr., Mayor
Marian Suhl, City Clerk
Elisabeth Jackson, Treasurer

January 23, 2008

Charles Nottingham
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street S. W. Suite 1220
Washington, D. C. 20423

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087
Log and Distribution

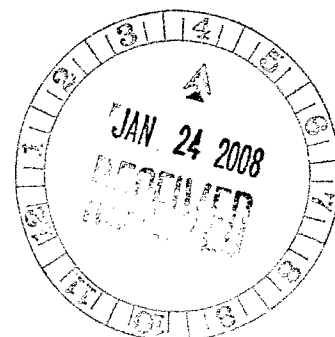
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Dear Mr. Nottingham:

HDR

I would like to take this opportunity to express my opposition to CN Railroads Petition to the STB in regards to finance docket #35087, Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation Control EJ & E West Company.

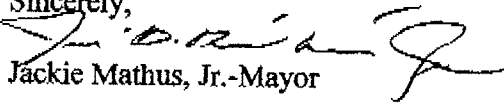
Granting this petition will result in Amtrak and its customers being stranded by eliminating the City of New Orleans, which operates daily round trips between Chicago and New Orleans. Also the Illini and Saluki, which is funded primarily by the State of Illinois, and provides round trips twice daily between Chicago, Champaign, Centralia and Carbondale. There are many students that take advantage of this service.

I do support Amtrak's recommendation that the new route known as "Grand Crossing Route" which is an alternative should the Air Line Route be eliminated. No such route elimination should be granted until the Grant Crossing Route is fully funded and completed.

Over 400,000 people ride Amtrak into Union Station on a yearly basis. By not providing access to Union Station will result in a major economic set back for all of Illinois and would be a hardship particularly to the students in Champaign and Carbondale who rely on this daily service. There will be major negative environmental impact by personal transportation, which is what would be used in place of Amtrak service.

Illinois communities using the Centralia terminal with an annual 15,000 riders would also be faced with economic hardships to our struggling community economy. This would also impact other communities along this same route in our state. I request that Canadian National's petition not be granted until there are other acceptable alternatives.

Sincerely,


Jackie Mathus, Jr.-Mayor

cc:

Honorable Senator John O. Jones
103D Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Honorable Representative Kurt Granberg
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Honorable US Congressman John Shimkus
U.S. House of Representatives
2452 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515-1319

Honorable US Congressman Jerry Costello
U. S. House of Representatives
2408 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515-1312

Honorable U. S. Senator Dick Durbin
309 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Honorable Senator Barack Obama
713 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D. C. 20510