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Congress of the United States
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December 18, 2007

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

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Dear Secretary Williams

I am writing in support of the proposed acquisition by Canadian National Railway Company of the major portion of the Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E). I am pleased that the Board has determined that this review will be handled as a "minor" transaction under the Board's regulations, and I urge the Board to proceed expeditiously with the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on this transaction. There are significant benefits to the State of Michigan associated with this transaction, including faster and more reliable rail service for the state's shippers.

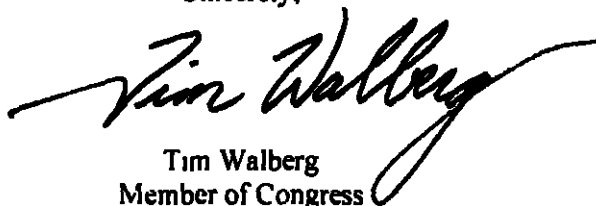
I understand that the EIS will assess the overall environmental impacts of this transaction, including the impacts of increased traffic that might occur in some communities along the EJ&E line. However, a prolonged EIS process could significantly complicate the transaction and delay the benefits to the vast majority of citizens throughout the Midwest. Permitting CN to reroute rail traffic away from the city of Chicago will cut congestion and emissions throughout the entire Chicago/Indiana/southwest Michigan region.

Additionally, 70 percent of our nation's finished automobiles are delivered to destinations throughout North America by rail. Delays in the Chicago area of up to 48 hours significantly impact the ability of our nation's auto manufacturers to provide timely delivery to market. This transaction provides CN the ability to enhance the efficiency of CN's operations in the region and will also diminish train delays in Chicago for the entire industry while reducing energy consumption.

I am confident the Board can expeditiously undertake a thorough review of the environmental impacts of this transaction and complete the EIS process within a time frame appropriate to the scope of this transaction. By doing so, the Board will ensure that community concerns are addressed while also allowing the benefits of this transaction to the rail system and users of rail service to be realized in timely fashion.

Thank you for the consideration of my view of this proposed transaction.

Sincerely,


Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

