

VILLAGE OF NORRIDGE

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15 May 2008

PRESIDENT
Earl J. Field

CLERK
Judith Dunne Bernardi

TRUSTEES
Ursula A. Kucharski
Ronald A. Oppedisano
Dominic S. Falagario
Robert Martwick
Jacqueline Gregorio
Dennis H. Stefanowicz

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan,
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, NW
Washington DC 20423-0001

Re: Finance Docket No. 35087



Dear Secretary Quinlan:

Attached please find Resolution No. 08-4, adopted and approved by the Board of Trustees at their Regular Meeting of 14 May 2008, which urges the Surface Transportation Board to approve the Canadian National Railroad's acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway. This is sent to you on behalf of the residents and business owners of the Village of Norridge.

Norridge residents are impacted by rail congestion on a daily basis: The Canadian National Railroad passed through adjacent communities. The re-routing of some of the trains onto the EJ&E line would improve the quality of life of our residents and that of our neighbors.

In addition, the economy of the Metropolitan Chicago region is hurt by the inability to efficiently move freight to and from its destinations. Decreasing rail congestion in the region will improve the movement of products to and from industrial and business sites. That is a benefit to everyone, including the Village of Norridge.

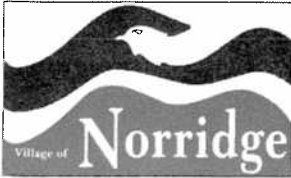
I urge the Surface Transportation Board to move quickly to approve Canadian National's proposed acquisition of the EJ&E Railway.

Sincerely,

Earl J. Field,
President

attachment

c: The Honorable Dick Durbin
The Honorable Jan Schakowsky



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VILLAGE OF NORRIDGE RESOLUTION NO. 08-4

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WHEREAS, one third of the nation's freight rail traffic moves to, from or through the Chicago area every year making it the transportation hub of North America; and

WHEREAS, rail congestion has significantly slowed freight traffic through the Chicago region to the point where it can now take a freight train 24 hours to travel the thirty miles through the City of Chicago, slowing rail transportation nationwide; and

WHEREAS, opening up capacity on urban rail lines means that all rail traffic will move more efficiently and smoothly through the city; and

WHEREAS, freight trains are three times more fuel-efficient and emit one-third less pollution than trucks carrying comparable loads, thereby lessening the drain on the nation's energy reserves; and

WHEREAS, a typical freight train carries the equivalent of 280 truck-trailer loads, thereby alleviating highway congestion by keeping time-sensitive freight on the rails rather than diverting to highways; and

WHEREAS, rail transportation is crucial to the region economically, touching five million jobs nationwide; and

WHEREAS, if the problem of rail congestion in the region goes unchecked, it could cost the region \$2 billion in production with impacts on 17,000 jobs over the next two decades; and

WHEREAS, Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Program (CREATE), a model public-private partnership initiated more than five years ago, developed a comprehensive long-term plan that would revitalize the area's transportation network by reconfiguring rail traffic through the Chicago Metropolitan region; and

WHEREAS, the CREATE comprehensive plan still hasn't received full government funding, even though it has had wide support from every level of government, the private sector and a broad cross-section of non-governmental groups and organizations; and

WHEREAS, Canadian National Railway Company, a founder and strong proponent of CREATE since its inception, has proposed rerouting its traffic from the congested urban rail lines to the under-utilized Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway at its own cost and expense, thereby opening up new capacity on those urban lines; and

WHEREAS, by rerouting its traffic, Canadian National Railway Company will relieve freight congestion on many of the Chicago region's lines, thereby reducing travel times, pollution from idling trains and costs resulting from shipping delays; and

WHEREAS, the West Central Municipal Conference having voted unanimously to support the acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway by the Canadian National Railway Company.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Norridge is joining the Municipal Conference in urging the Surface Transportation Board of the U.S. Department of Transportation to approve the application of the Canadian National Railway Company to acquire the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company as a valuable enhancement of the region's rail network; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Acting Secretary of the Surface Transportation Board.

ADOPTED by the of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Norridge at the Regular Meeting thereof held on the 14th day of May of 2008 and approved by me as President on the same day.

Earl J. Field, President
Village of Norridge

ATTEST:

Judith Dunne Bernardi, Village Clerk
Village of Norridge