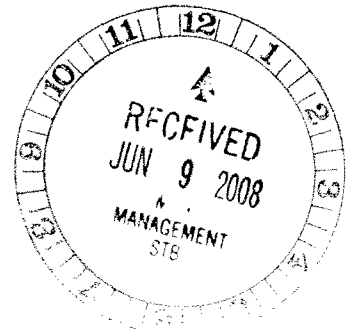


Judith Hougsted
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May 21, 2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

I am writing to voice my support for CN's plan to purchase a portion of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern rail line and relocate the majority of freight traffic to the EJ&E line farther west of the Chicago region.

As a long-time resident of this area, I can personally attest to the regular irritation one experiences while waiting for freight trains to cross intersections. While moving freight by rail is fuel efficient, many of the local rail lines were put into place long before Chicago's neighborhoods developed. Presently, automobiles, residents and trains coexist in an overly crowded area. Re-routing freight trains to a less congested area is a logical solution. It will greatly reduce delays for residents and emergency service vehicles, cut down on noise and air pollution, and ensure quicker, more efficient delivery of goods.

Please consider these factors and quickly approve the acquisition so that CN can move forward with their plan. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Judith Hougsted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith Hougsted".

cc: Senator Dick Durbin
Senator Barack Obama
Congressman Mark Steven Kirk