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Robert Johnston

833 Highland Rd.
Frankfort, IL
60423

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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January 16, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
Attention: Phillis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

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HDR

Subject: Proposed Canadian National Railway Company Acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company comments to be registered

After attending the scoping meeting at the Matteson Holiday Inn, I would like to add the following comments.

The proposed plan does not meet the long term needs of the Chicago Metropolitan Area.

The longer route proposed will create a long term safety issue for all of the growth areas in the Chicago Metropolitan Area. In particular, more miles of track will equal more problems. New growth is already creating transportation delays with the need of additional roadway construction. The idea of creating separation at grade crossings that do exist will just create additional delays for congested traffic. This plan will create a permanent barrier to development including the proposed third airport in the Peotone area.

As you know our transportation systems need to be improved. This plan does not seem to address the needs of the many voters who are commuters and would look to better transportation facilities both in the infrastructure of our roads and public transportation system. Many voters that I have talked with would like to see more commuter rail traffic to link the suburban areas and the existing system. This corridor may be best suited for that purpose.

The plan that has been proposed lacks true insight into the future of energy and its impact on transportation. As the cost of fossil fuel increases this should be of a primary concern. A more efficient plan would be to electrify the rail system in the metropolitan area and this could be done most reasonably over the shorter route the trains now travel. The city of Chicago has had electric based railroad experience and you can watch them start and stop at each station without the need for air pollution from fossil fuels.

One reason for the proposed plan seems to be a problem with the existing hub. Might I suggest that improvements be made to the existing

rite of way? If separation is a problem perhaps the C.T.A. could explain the concept of the subway and or the deep tunnel projects that have served the city well in the past. In addition another option is an open subway that does not require a tube.

The plans that I have mentioned do have a cost but a great long term benefit to all of the voters in the Chicago Metropolitan area not just a benefit to a railroad company.

Sincerely,

Robert Johnston

Signature

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Johnston". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name "Robert Johnston" and the word "Signature".