



For Immediate Release
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BOMBSHELL: In Letter, Ozinga Puts Company Before Local Communities and Taxpayers, “Strongly Supports” CN Acquisition of EJ&E
Citing Traffic and Safety Concerns, Halvorson Stands With Local Communities and Bipartisan Leadership in Opposing EJ&E Deal

New Lenox, IL – Thursday evening, State Senator and Congressional Candidate Debbie Halvorson stood with local communities to renew her previously stated opposition to the acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern (EJ&E) Railway by the Canadian National Railway.

“Canadian National’s acquisition will have a serious impact on the day-to-day lives of local residents and families across this region,” said Halvorson. “On top of traffic congestion and safety concerns, the plan stands to threaten property values of working families who are already being hit hard enough.”

Halvorson also reiterated her concerns about the impact this deal will have on commuter rail.

In August, Halvorson announced her support for recently proposed TRACS Act (HR 6707), sponsored in part by a bipartisan group of Illinois Representatives, including Melissa Bean (D), Peter Roskam (R), Bill Foster (D), Don Manzullo (R), and Judy Biggert (R). The proposed legislation would force the Surface Transportation Board to consider the effects of rail mergers on local communities and taxpayers.

Halvorson also decried Republican Congressional Candidate and concrete magnate Martin Ozinga for his support of the proposed acquisition.

In November 2007, Ozinga Transportation Inc, on behalf of Ozinga Bros. Inc, wrote a notarized letter in strong support of the acquisition of the EJ&E by Canadian National Railroad. Ozinga Transportation, Inc. Vice President Bruce Betts said in a “verified statement” to the Surface Transportation Board that, “We understand that CN is requesting authority to acquire and operate the EJ&E West company. We strongly support this application. [.]” The statement was submitted to the STB by the lawyers for the Canadian National Railroad. [Ozinga Transportation Verified Statement, 11/1/07, STB Docket No. 35087]

“Unfortunately, my opponent either doesn’t know or doesn’t care that the cost of this deal would be borne mostly by the communities and the taxpayers in this area,” said Halvorson. “His letter doesn’t even mention mitigation for local communities.”

Additionally, the acquisition of the EJ&E by Canadian National will increase train traffic from six trains per day to 28. Local communities may have to raise taxes to pay for noise abatement and grade separations – which cost approximately of \$40 million per separation.

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Ozinga Transportation Verified Statement can be found online at:

<http://www.stb.dot.gov/filings/all.nsf/ae1e0e01e63842c852574af006742ce/6313911c140e8e5b85257398007aed85?OpenDocument>



Verified Statement
Of
Bruce A. Betts
On behalf of
Ozinga Bros., Incorporated

Bruce A. Betts,
Ozinga Transportation, Incorporated
Vice President, Business Development
19015 South Jodi Road
Mokena, Illinois 60448

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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I have worked in the construction materials and transportation industries for over 40 years and for Ozinga since July 15, 2003. I am responsible for procuring transportation services and managing 38 railcars.

Ozinga is a major supplier of concrete and the aggregate material used in the mixing of concrete in the Chicago area. Ozinga has more than 30 company locations in the Chicago area which do 3,500 cars of rail business. Ozinga handles in excess of 20,000,000 tons of aggregate and concrete business in this area that has a financial impact of more than \$500,000,000.00.

We understand that the CN is requesting authority to acquire and operate the EJ&E West Company. We strongly support this application, as the combined company would offer improved efficiency into, out and around the Chicago market.

We monitor our shipments closely and know that they would move more quickly and predictably with a combined CN and EJ&E system. This combined system would also help reduce congestion for other rail movements into, out and through Chicago.

We have witnessed the previous acquisitions of the CN namely the IC and then the WC, which went very smoothly and with a minimum of service disruption. With this previous experience, we would expect this transaction to be done equally as well.

We at Ozinga believe that the proposed acquisition will provide a significant benefit to both shippers and consignees in the Chicago area. Efficient, faster and reliable rail service will assist in growing our business. Our company supports the application.

(2)

VERIFICATION:

I Bruce A. Betts, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Further, I certify that I am qualified and authorized to file this verified statement. Executed on November 1, 2007.

Bruce A. Betts

VERIFICATION:

State of Illinois

County of Cook

Bruce A. Betts, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that (he/she) has read the foregoing document, knows the facts asserted therein, and that the same are true as stated,

(Signed)

(Name typed)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of November, 2007.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

12/11/08

