

Maria Georgalidis

432 Pleasant Run Drive; Apt. C • Wheeling, IL 60090

July 1, 2008

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

Subject: CN Railway Company/EJ&E, STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

The high amount of freight train congestion that currently exists in the Chicago region causes problems in a variety of areas. Whether through increased car traffic, pollution or economic inefficiency, it is clear that freight traffic has an unfortunate effect on our region. CN Railway's proposal to improve this situation by redirecting many trains to the outskirts of the region should be applauded. More important though, the move needed to make these relocations possible, the approval of CN's purchase of part of EJ&E Railway, should be forthcoming.

Here in Wheeling, my driving route is frequently blocked by idle freight trains. This occurs about once a week and I usually have to wait for roughly five to ten minutes each time before the train moves out of my way. Although the delays are a minor annoyance, the large amount of idling by all these vehicles at the crossings may be creating more long-lasting problems. For example, having so many pollutants being emitted into the air on a daily basis is damaging to our air and to all of us who breathe it. Furthermore, the lack of productivity with having so many trains idling and not making progress toward their destinations has consequences. It has been estimated, in fact, that unless the railway congestion is relieved, it will cost Chicago \$2 billion in production and 17,000 jobs over the next twenty years.

New freight train routes would be helpful in terms of easing the current high level of congestion. With the EJ&E line, CN would be in a position to provide this relief. Please allow them to pursue this project by approving their purchase. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Maria Georgalidis

Maria Georgalidis