

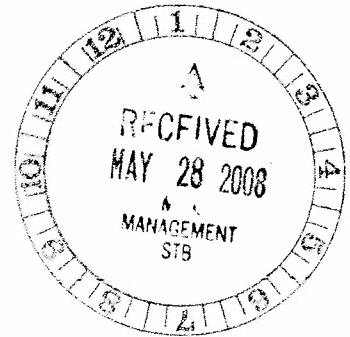
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BACK OF THE YARDS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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Friday May 23, 2008



Mr. Vernon Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Mr. Williams:

On behalf of the Back of the Yards Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to urge your support for the Canadian National Railroad's acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company.

Over the last decade, rail congestion in the Chicago region has increased substantially as businesses shift from highway to railway for delivery of their goods. As a major railway hub, the congestion in Chicago has a ripple effect on the economy across the country. The Canadian National plan to divert traffic that is destined for points outside Chicago to the underutilized EJ & E Railway line is a good solution, not only for their customers, but for the overall business community in the Chicago region and across the country.

The Back of the Yards community in Chicago has historically been at the crossroads for rail traffic in Chicago and across the country. Maintaining and improving rail traffic across the region to alleviate noise and air pollution will positively impact our community. In addition, making it easier for our local industry to ship and receive is good for our local economy as well.

In closing, I would like to urge the Surface Transportation Board to approve the Canadian National Railroad's acquisition of the EJ&E Railway Company.

Sincerely,

Martha Jungenberg
Local Industrial Retention Initiative
Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council

"We the people will work out our own destiny"