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Office of the Mayor

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EUGENE SIEGEL
MAYOR

September 4, 2008

Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

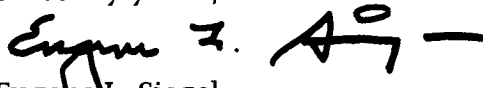
I am writing this letter on behalf of the Village of Chicago Ridge to support the proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway (EJ&E) by Canadian National Railway Company.

The Indiana Harbor Belt Railway runs directly through the Village of Chicago Ridge. The frequent train traffic has been a hindrance to emergency response to our citizens as well as causing heavy traffic delays for residents and daily commuters needing to use our roadways on their way to work. Idling trains have also caused unnecessary pollution inside our town.

We realize the importance of rail transportation to the entire Chicago area and to the local economy. The acquisition of EJ&E by Canadian National Railway Co. is a win-win situation for all involved. It will provide much needed relief to the congestion to neighboring areas as well as enable CN to run more efficiently which will improve the growing flow of commerce throughout the region.

On behalf of the Village Board and myself, we urge the Surface Transportation Board to approve this transaction for the benefit of local as well as regional economies.

Sincerely yours,


Eugene L. Siegel
Mayor

ELS/jak