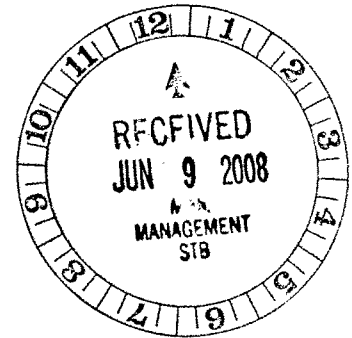


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Lyle Backus
9739 Iona Avenue
Franklin Park, IL 60131



May 23, 2008

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

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

I request that your agency allow CN to move forward with its plan to purchase a portion of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern line.

The traffic problems we face due to the slow passage of the freight trains through Franklin Park are a constant source of irritation and potential trouble. To give you an idea of what kinds of problems this creates, I would like to share the following anecdote with you.

Once, while waiting 30 minutes for a train to move through a crossing, a line of cars formed and when it was finally time to move, we discovered that a driver had fallen asleep in her car. While this was humorous to the many people waiting, the truth is that it was potentially quite dangerous, and is a perfect example of how the rail lines need to be moved to areas with less population density.

Please allow CN to make this purchase, and do a big favor to the residents of Franklin Park. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lyle Backus".

Lyle Backus

cc: Senator Dick Durbin
Senator Barack Obama
Congressman Rahm Emanuel