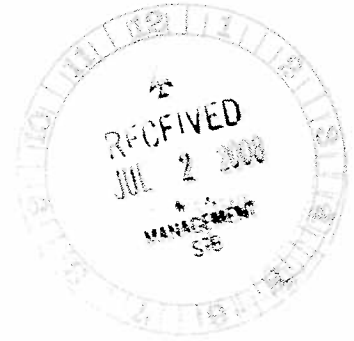




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June 24, 2008



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

Re: Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Acting Secretary Quinlan:

This letter is in reference to the recent Canadian National (CN) Railroad agreement in principle with United States Steel to purchase a major portion of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern (EJ&E) Railroad. Port Manchac, which is located adjacent to the CN mainline and serviced six (6) days a week, is requesting your full support of the proposed CN acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad.

In recent years, the steel manufacturing companies located south of Port Manchac have diverted their dependency from rail transportation, due to the congestion at the point of origination in the Chicago region. We believe that the transaction will provide a more efficient rail network and make the southern inter-modal ports in Louisiana more competitive. A recent example at the Port of New Orleans involved cargo traffic from Caterpillar that was diverted to alternative eastern ports, due to delays in time sensitive delivery schedules.

Once again, on behalf of the South Tangipahoa Parish Port Commission, I strongly encourage you to support the proposed CN-EJ&E acquisition in order to provide a more competitive edge for rail cargo shipments that are trans-loaded at Port Manchac and at all associated port terminals in Southeastern Louisiana.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Dufresne,
Executive Director
Port Manchac

PJD/hm

cc: U. S. Senator Steve Scalise
U. S. Senator Mary Landrieu
U. S. Senator David Vitter
Mr. Gary Lagrange, President & CEO, Port of New Orleans

SOUTH TANGIPAHOA PARISH PORT COMMISSION

dba/Port Manchac Distribution Center

163 West Hickory Street, Ponchatoula, Louisiana 70454 (985) 386-9309
e-mail: portmanchac@i-55.com Fax: (985) 386-9389 Web: portmanchac.org