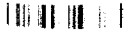




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FROM THE OFFICE OF MAYOR Frank A. Pasquale

BELLWOOD



MAYOR

Frank A. Pasquale

VILLAGE CLERK

Lena M. Moreland

TRUSTEES

Michael J. Ciavattone

Annie N. Delgado

Edward S. Lezza, Jr.

Dr. Phylistine Murphy

Ronald Nightengale

M.C. Robinson

September 2, 2008

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

RE: Canadian Nation Railway Co., et.al. – EJ & E
West Company, STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

On behalf of the people of Bellwood, Illinois, let me add my voice to those supporting the Canadian National Railroad's acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway.

As North America's rail hub, the Chicago area will be dramatically impacted by the decision in this proposed acquisition. Chicago and its suburbs count on the rail industry for jobs both directly, as an employer of many of our citizens, and indirectly by the loss of production (and the jobs that go with it) if rail capacity is not improved and expanded. As Mayor of one of those suburban communities most directly affected by rail traffic, it is my duty to encourage your approval of Canadian National's acquisition of the EJ & E.

Bisected by both the Union Pacific Railroad and the Indiana Harbor Belt and home to west suburban Chicago's Proviso rail yard, Bellwood is well aware of the rewards and costs of rail transportation.

Rail brings jobs to our Village, has made us a key cog in the railroad network and has brought industry employing hundreds of Bellwood residents. We want to make sure that capacity is increased and that other industries continue to find rail freight an economically viable alternative. We believe that CN's acquisition of the EJ & E will make the Chicago area's entire rail network more efficient and pay benefits to all of us.



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At the same time, our railroad neighbors bring traffic congestion at grade level crossings, noise disrupting residents and the increased risk of accidents. Like many other largely minority communities, Bellwood bears a disproportionate share of these non-economic costs of the railroad industry. CN's purchase of the EJ & E will help streamline rail service throughout the Chicago area and reduce these daily concerns of our residents.

We strongly urge the Surface Transportation Board to approve Canadian National's acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway. Bellwood and many other communities just like it have paid more than their fair share of the social costs for too long. Making the entire Chicago rail system more efficient will equalize these costs and keep our rail freight system an economic engine for the entire region.

Sincerely,

Frank A. Pasquale, Mayor
Village of Bellwood