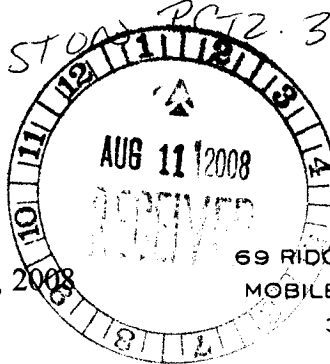


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PERCY W. JOHNSTON

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

July 26, 2008



69 RIDGELAWN DRIVE EAST
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36608
334-341-1664

RE: Finance Docket No. 35087 - Canadian National
Railway Co. & Grand Trunk Corp. - Control EJ&E
West Company.

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

The purpose of this letter is to express support for Canadian National's application for control or purchase of the EJ&E Railway.

Having served as General Counsel of Illinois Central Gulf Railroad (later IC RR and now part of CN) from 1974 to the latter months of 1985, I was involved in the legal work associated with "downsizing" the ICG as a carrier with some 9400 route miles to one of approximately 4000 route miles in 1986. This major change in the profile of the company made it better able to serve the great majority of shippers in its geographic area, as well as placing the company in position to operate as a stand-alone entity. We had numerous cases before the Interstate Commerce Commission for abandonment of short segments of track carrying very little freight, and also a number of cases for approval of sale of longer segments of trackage for short line operation.

In contrast with downsizing, Canadian National has expanded in this country, and now seeks purchase of a line that will make it much more efficient and effective in serving shippers throughout the Midwest, the Mississippi Valley and Gulf Coast regions, as well as other areas. I suggest that all possible support and encouragement should be given to a builder in the rail industry. Rail traffic in Chicago suffered from congestion in the 1970's, and from numerous accounts in the media that situation is much worse today. CN's operation of the EJ&E will surely provide substantial relief to the congestion problem, and it is encouraging that this will be accomplished through expenditure of company money as opposed to government funds.

I have no doubt that our Port of Mobile and its new \$300 million container ship terminal, as well as our adjacent state of Mississippi where CN is the major rail carrier, will benefit from CN's operation of the EJ&E. Thus, I respectfully urge your Board's approval of this application.

Sincerely,

Percy W. Johnston