



July 3, 2008

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

**Subject: Canadian National Railway Co.-Control- EJ&E
West Company, STB Finance Docket No.35087**

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

I am writing in support of CN's proposed acquisition of the major portion of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Co.(EJ&E). This transaction will improve rail service in the Chicago metropolitan area to the benefit of railroads and their customers, as well as the Chicago land region in general.

I represent Railtech Ltd., a company that supplies various railway parts to the locomotive and mass transit passenger car builders in North America.

The city of Chicago is an important center for North American rail traffic, but the rail corridors in Chicago are congested. Policymakers have long recognized that action needs to be taken to reduce rail congestion in Chicago. CN's proposed acquisition would help to reduce congestion by re-routing CN traffic from downtown to the less congested EJ&E line in suburban Chicago. The more efficient rail operations that will result will benefit CN and other railroads, as well as the business community that relies on rail service and the many communities in the downtown area that will experience reductions in train traffic.

I also urge the STB to approve this transaction expeditiously, as proposed by CN in its request for establishment of time limits for the environmental review and for issuance of a final decision. I support a meaningful environmental review to examine the impacts of moving train traffic off downtown Chicago rail lines to the EJ&E, as some communities along the EJ&E right-of-way will experience train traffic increases. The STB's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has been examining these issues for the last several months and has provided opportunities for community residents and officials to comment on the transaction. Interested parties will also have the opportunity to provide comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) on this transaction once it has been issued.

I strongly urge the board to complete its environmental review process expeditiously, and to approve this beneficial transaction as it is in the public's best interest.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
John Natale
President

cc: Victoria Rutson, Chief Section of Environmental Analysis