

SUBCOMMITTEES

LABOR HEALTH AND
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1302

December 4, 2007

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The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D C 20423

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

Dear Secretary Williams

I am writing in support of the proposal by Canadian National Railway Company (CN) to acquire control over the EJ&E West Company. This transaction will improve rail service through the Chicago metropolitan area, reduce congestion in our crowded rail corridors, and will have no adverse effects on competition. Given the importance of efficient rail movements through Chicago and the Second Congressional District of Illinois, I am pleased that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) designated this as a "minor" transaction, which should allow expeditious consideration of this proposed transaction.

I understand that the STB will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed transaction to examine the impact on the communities that will experience train traffic increases. Several municipal officials in the Second Congressional District have expressed concerns to me about potential negative impacts. Specifically, they fear that the increased number and length of trains on the east-west railroad corridor will impede or block vehicular traffic -- including ambulances and emergency response vehicles -- along many major north-south arterial routes in the communities between Chicago Heights and Matteson, Illinois. These appear to be legitimate concerns that I would urge the Board to address and mitigate as a condition of the proposed sale.

In short, I urge the Board to equally consider the important overall environmental benefits for Chicago, the region, and rail transportation that will result from this transaction -- as well as the specific municipal concerns. In the end, I do not believe that the localized impacts will outweigh the transaction's positive benefits, but I am relying on the Board to work with me and all interested parties involved to identify and provide appropriate mitigation where necessary.

December 4, 2007
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I urge the STB to complete the environmental review process as quickly as possible and approve the proposed transaction. Please enter these comments into the record of this docket.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Jesse L. Jackson, Jr
Member of Congress