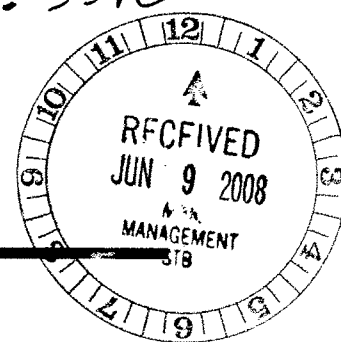




Craig Stevens

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May 23, 2008

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

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

I am writing to you regarding the proposal by CN to purchase a portion of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern rail line, and relocate a majority of freight traffic to areas farther west of Chicago.

As a retired Evanston Police Major, I am personally aware of the serious challenges faced by first responders who often find themselves stuck waiting for long and slow freight trains to pass through critical intersections. While freight moved by rail makes economic sense, it is undeniable that Chicagoland has grown considerably since the rails were first laid down. With today's tremendous urban growth, fire, ambulance and police who respond to critical calls need more room and faster flowing traffic in order to get their jobs done. It is not an exaggeration to say that lives are at stake, and moving freight traffic to a different line could help save those lives. *A ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR*

I hope that you will consider these issues and vote to approve CN's purchase. Please help keep the residents of Chicagoland safe, and give first responders the help they need to do their work.

Sincerely yours,

Craig Stevens
Craig Stevens

cc: Senator Richard Durbin
Senator Barack Obama
Congressman Mark Steven Kirk