


DEBORAH L. GRAHAM

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
78TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

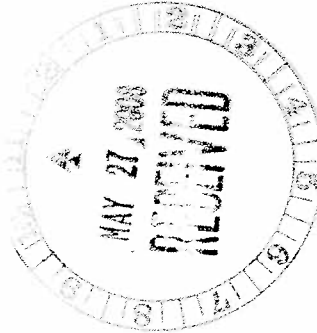
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April 21, 2008

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



Dear Secretary Williams:

I am pleased to offer my full support for the proposal by Canadian National Railway Company (CN) to acquire control over the EJ&E West Company. Having carefully examined the proposal, I've concluded that this transaction will significantly improve rail service throughout the city of Chicago, and greatly reduce environmental hazards by a sizable margin; while yielding no adverse impact on competition.

For example, my district alone would see a reduction of train traffic over the CN line from the current level of about 8 trains per day to 0 trains. This will create excess capacity on the line and reduce environmental impacts, including air emissions and noise.

More significant for the national rail transportation network, though, would be the removal of trains from lines through the center of Chicago. This train removal will free up capacity for other carriers and reduce energy consumption and transit times for traffic moving through the Chicago gateway on CN as well as other railroads.

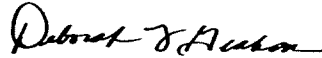
Additionally, this transaction will advance the CREATE project's objectives by addressing rail congestion issues in the region using private investment. CREATE was originally envisioned as an approximately \$1.5 billion public/private infrastructure initiative, with funding coming from the federal government, the State of Illinois, City of Chicago, and the nation's freight railroads. CN's use of private investment funds will save taxpayer funds while increasing the efficiency of the region's rail infrastructure and the quality of life of Chicago-area.

Some communities along the EJ&E right-of-way will experience train traffic increases. I understand that the STB will be looking at the impacts of this additional traffic in the context of the environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act, and that the STB may impose conditions, if appropriate, to mitigate those impacts. I have been told by CN that it is reaching out to those communities to identify these issues, and to assist these communities in addressing them appropriately.

I do not believe that these localized impacts along the EJ&E right-of-way, which will be addressed fully in the STB 's environmental review, outweigh the significant overall environmental benefits of this transaction on the region, much less the transportation benefits of the transaction to our nation. I urge the Board to complete its environmental review process expeditiously, and to approve the transaction as in the public interest.

Please enter these comments into the record of this docket.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah L. Graham".

State Representative
Deborah L. Graham
78th District