

United Business Association of Midway

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2/28/2008

Mr. Vernon Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Mr. Williams:

I write today in support of Canadian National Railroad's proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company. This acquisition will play an important role in strengthening our business community at a critical time, and on behalf of the United Business Association of Midway, I urge you to please consider our support of this proposal.

Railway congestion in the Chicago area has been such a daunting challenge for so long that many people assume it will *a/ways* be a challenge; that gridlock is inevitable; that goods and services are destined to move slowly through the region.

I think we can do better. Canadian National Railroad has a plan to restructure rail traffic flow for the better and revitalize our region's business opportunities.

Right now, it can take a freight train more than 24 hours to go from Howard Street on the north side of Chicago to 127th Street on the south side. As CN trains reroute from the existing Chicago terminal network onto the EJ&E, line capacity in greater Chicago will be freed up to ease congestion, benefiting other rail users.

Here on the southwest side of Chicago, we have borne the brunt of freight traffic and are all too familiar with idling trains and unnecessary delays at crossings. This plan deserves very real consideration moving forward, as the streamlining of rail operations will bring economic, environmental and public-safety benefits to the entire region.

I urge you to please support Canadian National Railroad's acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company. Thank you for your consideration.

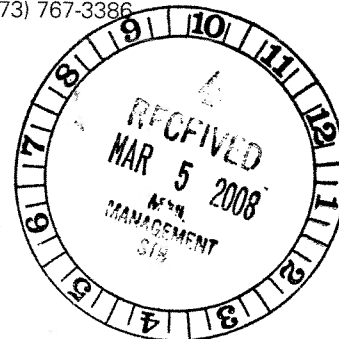
Sincerely,

Anita M. Cummings
Anita M. Cummings

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Office of Proceedings

MAR 5 - 2008

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Public Record



Surface Transportation Board

CN ELGIN, JOLIET & E. RY. 35087

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