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July 3, 2008

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

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RE: CN Railway Company/EJ&E
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

The Chicago region needs your approval of CN's proposed acquisition of segments of the EJ&E line. CN is attempting to reduce the amount of rail congestion in this area. The transportation issues of this region often revolve around delays caused by freight rail. CN's plan is a viable course of action, and I urge you to support it.

Train congestion in Chicago is horrible; I have dealt with blocked crossings for 30 years. I used to teach math at the high school just south of the Central and 107th Street crossing, where the rail congestion is the worst. My students would always arrive late because of the bus delays caused by the trains. I am now retired and travel less, but I am still frequently blocked at the crossings anywhere from 15 minutes to half an hour at a time. The people of this city have gotten used to planning ahead to compensate for the delays caused by trains.

If CN is able to acquire this portion of rail line, they will then be re-routing abundant freight traffic to these new lines. This new change will reduce the railway congestion in the Chicago area. I see this as a benefit to the community, and urge you to approve this proposed purchase.

Sincerely,

Carol Schaal

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