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June 16, 2008

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

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

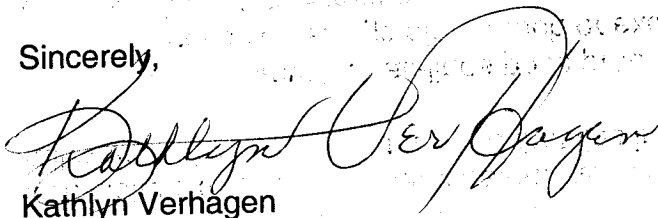
Dear Secretary Quinlan:

As a resident of South Holland, I am writing to you as my community needs your support. CN has proposed to purchase a portion of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern rail line in order to relieve the railway congestion in this area. Once the transaction is approved, many freight trains will be redirected off of congested railways to this underused rail line that lies in the outskirts of the Chicago area.

The overcrowded rail-lines pose problems in my community. The wait times at blocked crossings often reach or exceed 20 minutes for each train that passes. The 170th Street crossing here in South Holland is particularly affected. Additionally, I am concerned about the health and safety of the students attending Thornwood High School as well as the people who use the nearby community center. Both locations are adjacent to the railroad tracks and the trains cause excess pollution in these areas, especially when idling.

If left untouched, the citywide congestion problems are only going to get worse. I support CN's plan as it is a step in the right direction that will positively impact one of our city's leading issues. Please approve CN's acquisition of the EJ&E line.

Sincerely,


Kathlyn Verhagen

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