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STATE OF ILLINOIS

SIDNEY H. MATHIAS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 53rd DISTRICT

June 27, 2008

Ms. Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. St, 5W
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Finance Docket # 35087 – Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation - Control –
EJ&E West Company

Dear Secretary Quinlan,

I am writing in support of CN's request for Establishment of Time Limits for NEPA Review and Final Decision, filed on May 13, 2008.

I represent the communities of Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, Arlington Heights, Mt. Prospect and Prospect Heights, Illinois. They would benefit from this transaction. We are eager for the transaction to move forward so that this area and the Chicagoland region generally can begin to benefit from the reduced congestion that will result if the transaction is allowed to proceed.

I am aware that some are opposed to CN's request that the STB target deadlines for completion of the Environmental Impact Statement and for issuance of a final decision on the proposed acquisition. I agree that the Board should have the information it needs; the CN's proposed schedule provides ample time for this. It is important to remember that the STB has undertaken its environmental analysis since at least December 2007 and has provided many opportunities for interested citizens, community officials and government agencies to provide comments. This includes the scoping meetings held throughout the region in January 2008 and the opportunity to provide comment on the draft Scope of Study.

I understand that in the final scoping decision, the STB's Section of Environmental Analysis has identified issues that need to be studied by the EIS. Under CN's proposed timetable, SEA will have sufficient time to complete its study of these issues and the public will again have the opportunity to provide input to the STB during the period that will be provided for comment on the Draft EIS.

This transaction promises important benefits to the Chicagoland region and to individual communities. I understand and support the need for meaningful environmental reviews. I respectfully suggest that the SEA has had sufficient time and resources to thoroughly study the issues involved in the transaction and, under CN's proposed timetable, will still have more time to examine issues and identify appropriate mitigation if needed. The principles of good governmental process should not be open-ended. I urge you to adopt the time limits proposed by CN in its filing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sidney H. Mathias".

Representative Sidney H. Mathias, District 53

Cc: Victoria J. Rutson, Chief, Section of Environmental Studies