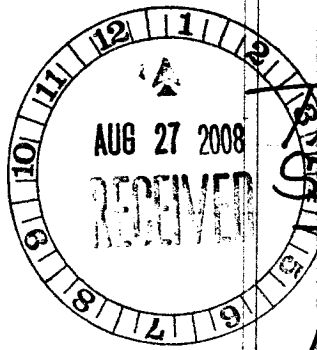




Transportation Board : Anne Quinlan
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Today, I attended a Railway Rally in my town No. Riverside, a suburb of Chicago. Dan Lipinski spoke, along with many Mayors of surrounding towns. The conclusion they reached was we need to disperse to other suburbs some of the heavy freight train traffic we experience in Cook County, including Chicago. Each day about 700 passenger trains and 500 freight trains move thru the Chicago Metro region. A total of 60+ Communities, population of 4.1 million, are looking for rail congestion relief, versus 38 communities, population of 1.5 million, that would see rail traffic increases. I have lived in my small town for 36 yrs. We have 6 rail crossings cutting thru one side of town. Traffic comes to a standstill for 30 mins. or more when a freighter comes thru. Drivers, in attempts to avoid the mess, speed up to get thru the gates before they come down which poses an increase in accidents, etc. Please, please hasten the CN purchase of E+L which has been long overdue.
Thank-you, Cathie Brazzalle