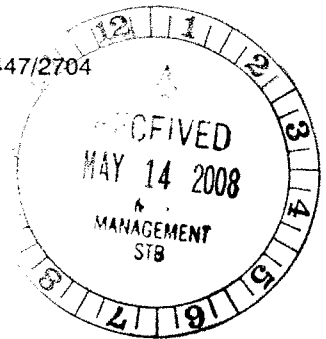




RIVERSIDE VILLAGE OFFICE

27 RIVERSIDE ROAD • RIVERSIDE, ILLINOIS 60546-2299 • 708/447/2700 • FAX: 708/447/2704

April 10, 2008



Anne K. Quinlan, Esq., Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

RE: A Resolution Supporting the Purchase of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway
(EJ&E) by the Canadian National Railway Company (CN)
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

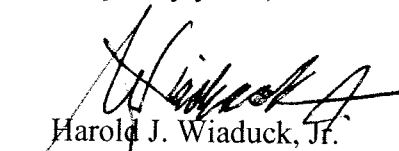
Dear Acting Secretary Quinlan,

I previously wrote to you on behalf of the Village of Riverside to express our support of the CN's proposed purchase of the EJ&E. A copy of that letter is attached for your reference.

Please find enclosed a copy of A Resolution Supporting the Purchase of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern (EJ&E) by the Canadian National (CN) which was unanimously approved by the Riverside Village Board of Trustees at the regular meeting on Monday, April 7, 2008.

We continue to support of this transaction as it will benefit not only residents of Riverside, but the entire suburban Chicago region. Again, I thank you for allowing the Village of Riverside the opportunity to submit our comments and have our voices heard with regard to this issue of great importance.

Very truly yours,


Harold J. Wiaduck, Jr.
Village President

Provide quality municipal services to our residents and visitors in a fiscally responsible manner consistent with our Village's historic tradition and community atmosphere.

VIII A. 3.

VILLAGE OF RIVERSIDE

BOARD MEETING

AGENDA ITEM -HISTORY/COMMENTARY

ITEM TITLE: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PURCHASE OF
THE ELGIN, JOLIET AND EASTERN RAILWAY (EJ&E) BY
CANADIAN NATIONAL (CN)

AGENDA NO.: _____

MEETING DATE: APRIL 7, 2008

Village President, Harold J. Wiaduck, Jr.: _____

LEGAL REVIEW:

Village Attorney: _____

RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:

Village Manager: _____

ITEM HISTORY (PREVIOUS VILLAGE BOARD REVIEWS, ACTIONS RELATED TO THIS ITEM, COMMITTEE ACTION, OTHER PERTINENT HISTORY):

With one third of the nation's freight rail traffic moving through the Chicago area every year, rail congestion continues to increase and impact our community adversely. The purchase of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway (EJ&E) by Canadian National (CN) will result in the rerouting of freight traffic from the EJ&E rail line that passes through our community. This will improve the flow of surface traffic in and around our community and reduce noise and air pollution in Riverside.

ITEM COMMENTARY (BACKGROUND, DISCUSSION, KEY POINTS, RECOMMENDATIONS):

President Wiaduck supports this Resolution.

ACTION PROPOSED:

Motion to enact this Resolution and forward copies to The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan, Acting Secretary of the Surface Transportation Board, The Honorable Dan Lipinski, U.S. Congressman, The Honorable Richard Durbin, U.S. Senator.

*Please note: A copy of this Resolution will also be sent to The Honorable Barack Obama who also received a letter in support of this purchase on March 17, 2008. (copy attached)

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RESOLUTION NO.

2008- R 30

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PURCHASE OF THE ELGIN, JOLIET AND EASTERN RAILWAY (EJ&E) BY CANADIAN NATIONAL (CN)

WHEREAS, one third of the nation's freight rail traffic moves to, from or through the Chicago area every year making it the transportation hub of North America, and

WHEREAS, rail congestion has significantly slowed freight traffic through the Chicago region to the point where it can now take a freight train 24 hours to travel the thirty miles through the City of Chicago, slowing rail transportation nationwide; and

WHEREAS, opening up capacity on urban rail lines means that all rail traffic will move more efficiently and smoothly through the city; and

WHEREAS, freight trains are three times more fuel-efficient and emit one-third less pollution than trucks carrying comparable loads, thereby lessening the drain on the nation's energy reserves; and

WHEREAS, a typical freight train carries the equivalent of 280 truck-trailer loads, thereby alleviating highway congestion by keeping time-sensitive freight on the rails rather than diverting to highways; and

WHEREAS, rail transportation is crucial to the region economically touching five million jobs nationwide; and

WHEREAS if the problem of rail congestion in the region goes unchecked, it could cost the region \$2 billion in production with impacts on 17,000 jobs over the next two decades; and

WHEREAS, Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Program (CREATE) a model public-private partnership, initiated more than five years ago, developed a comprehensive long term plan that would revitalize the area's transportation network by reconfiguring rail traffic through the Chicago Metropolitan region; and

WHEREAS, the CREATE comprehensive plan still hasn't received full government funding, even though it has had wide support from every level of government, the private sector and a broad cross-section of non-governmental groups and organizations; and

WHEREAS, Canadian National Railway Company, a founder and strong proponent of CREATE since its inception, has proposed rerouting its traffic from the congested urban rail lines to the under-utilized Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway at its own cost and expense, thereby opening up new capacity on those urban lines; and

WHEREAS, by rerouting its traffic, Canadian National Railway Company will relieve freight congestion on many of the Chicago's region rail lines, thereby reducing travel times, pollution from idling trains and costs resulting from shipping delays,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Riverside urges the Surface Transportation Board of the U.S. Department of Transportation to approve the application of The Canadian National Railway Company to acquire the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway as a valuable enhancement of the region's rail network,; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Acting Secretary of the Surface Transportation Board.

Enacted this 7th day of April, 2008.

Trustee Grace A

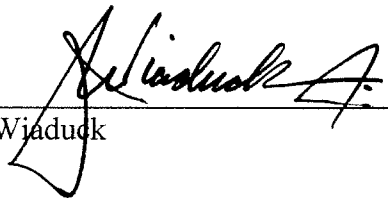
Trustee Shields A

Trustee Scully A

Trustee Smith A

Trustee Sells A

Trustee Sussman A



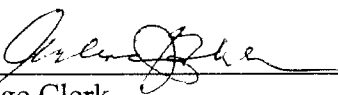
President Wiaduck

ATTEST:



Village Clerk

Filed in the office of the Village Clerk and published in pamphlet form by authority of the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Riverside, Cook County, Illinois this 7th day of April, 2008.



Village Clerk



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March 17, 2008

Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35087, Canadian National Railway Company and
Grand Trunk Corporation – control – EJ&E West Company

Dear Ms. Quinlan:

I am writing to notify you of the Village of Riverside's support of the CN's proposed purchase of the EJ&E. The Chicago region is very congested with freight traffic. Projections have freight traffic increasing over the next 20 years at alarming rates. We cannot keep putting the increased volumes of freight on the same rail lines that already clog our transportation system and our communities. Riverside is home to two rail lines, the CN and the BNSF. Both experience high volumes of freight traffic which impact our residents and those individuals using the roadways in our community.

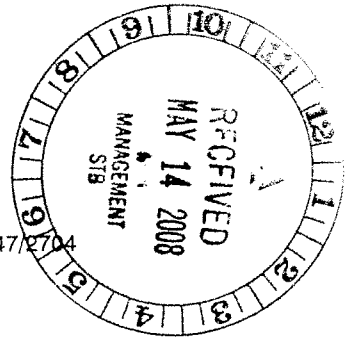
The EJ&E is an underutilized freight line in our region. Use of this rail line can provide relief to Riverside and others in the west Cook County area. Freeing up capacity in our region may also allow for new and increased METRA service to communities as well. I hope the STB will look at the regional benefits and the benefits to inner ring communities as a part of its decision-making process. The CN purchase of the EJ&E has the ability to address some needed improvements in the infrastructure to those communities where this line has been underutilized and neglected.

Provide quality municipal services to our residents and visitors in a fiscally responsible manner consistent with our Village's historic tradition and community atmosphere.



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Thank you for allowing the Village of Riverside the opportunity to submit our comments and our voice to be heard in this process.

Very truly yours,

Harold J. Wiaduck, Jr.
Village President

Cc. West Central Municipal Conference
Mayor Richard Scheck, North Riverside

Provide quality municipal services to our residents and visitors in a fiscally responsible manner consistent with our Village's historic tradition and community atmosphere.