

Village of La Grange

September 9, 2008

Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423



RE: **STB FINANCE DOCKET NO.: FD - 35087**

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

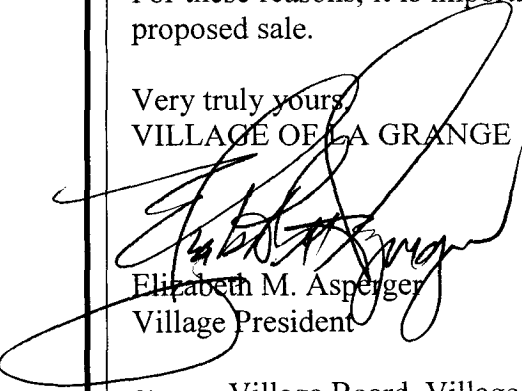
The Village of La Grange supports the proposed sale of the EJ&E Railway to the Canadian National Railroad.

The Village of La Grange is at "ground zero" for passenger rail and freight rail traffic within the western suburbs. La Grange is quartered by two rail lines, is transversed by ten at-grade rail crossings and experiences approximately 200 train movements each day. We know first-hand the benefits and liabilities associated with railroad traffic.

The need for improved flow of railroad traffic through the Chicago metropolitan area is well documented. The proposed purchase and renewed use of the EJ&E line is consistent with the region's identified need to facilitate the movement of rail traffic in a non-radial fashion. In contrast to the historical development of rail involving La Grange and its neighbors, those communities affected by the proposed sale of the EJ&E Railway will be in a position to manage impacts by conditioning approval to certain improvements.

For these reasons, it is important that the Surface Transportation Board looks favorably upon the proposed sale.

Very truly yours,
VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE


Elizabeth M. Asperger
Village President

c: Village Board, Village Clerk,
Village Attorney
Village Manager
U.S. Congressional Delegation
Illinois General Assembly Delegation

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