

JOHN M SHIMKUS
19TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

2452 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5271

ENERGY AND COMMERCE
COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES
ENVIRONMENT AND HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS
RAMPING MEMBER

ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND
THE INTERNET

BALTIC CAUCUS
CO-CHAIRMAN

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express my support for CN's proposed acquisition of EJ&E West Company. This transaction will improve rail operations in and beyond the Chicago area by allowing more efficient train operations and reducing congestion. This transaction will strengthen CN's ability to serve customers and streamline rail operations, not only in Chicago, but also throughout CN's network.

Chicago is a major center for rail transportation. Along with the extensive freight rail operations in Chicago, however, come congestion on the rail lines, which in turn lead to blocked crossings, train idling, and other challenges. This transaction will alleviate these problems by moving trains off of CN's lines in the Chicago urban core, which will streamline remaining rail operations in the city and reduce vehicular interference. By minimizing delays and associated locomotive idling time, the transaction will also benefit the regional environment. The streamlined operations through the Chicago region that this transaction will make possible will reduce total train time spent in the region, resulting in an overall reduction in emissions.

It is likewise important to recognize that railroads are by far the most energy-efficient method of surface transportation in the nation today. A railroad has the ability to move one ton of freight more than 400 miles on one gallon of fuel, while one loaded intermodal train is able to carry the equivalent freight of 280 trucks, keeping them off the roads and minimizing congestion in that way. It is well-established that the region's transportation demands will rise significantly over the next twenty years and beyond. It is crucial that the nation's railroads be able to absorb as much of this anticipated growth as possible, and this transaction will help achieve this important goal.

I recognize that some communities located on the current EJ&E line have expressed concerns about the increased number of trains and their potential impact on vehicular traffic in those communities. I am aware that CN has been reaching out to these communities to identify and address these concerns. I also understand that the STB will review these issues as part of the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement and will provide an opportunity for interested parties to express their views and have them considered thoroughly by the Board.

I am pleased that the Board characterized this transaction as a "minor" one. I urge the

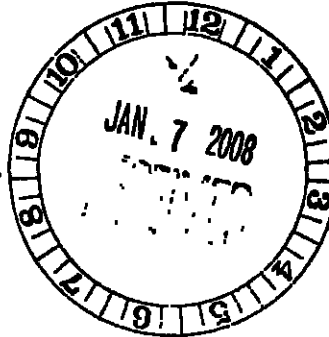
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1319

December 11, 2007

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JAN 10 2008

Part of
Public Record



FD-35087

22/228

3130 CHATHAM ROAD, SUITE C
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704
(217) 492-5090

240 REGENCY CENTRE
COLLINSVILLE, IL 62234
(618) 344-3065

221 EAST BROADWAY, SUITE 102
CENTRALIA, IL 62801
(618) 532-9676

CITY HALL, ROOM 12
110 EAST LOCUST
HARRISBURG, IL 62946
(618) 252-8271

120 SOUTH FAIR STREET
OLNEY, IL 62450
(618) 392-7737

www.house.gov/shimkus

Board to move expeditiously to complete the environmental review process and to approve the transaction, so that the Chicago region and the Midwest overall may be able to benefit from its associated environmental and efficiency benefits.

Thank you for your consideration of my views. Please include my comments in the public docket for this proceeding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Shimkus', written in a cursive style.

JOHN SHIMKUS
Member of Congress

JMS:gec