

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

FINANCE DOCKET NO. 35087

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY
AND GRAND TRUNK CORPORATION
-CONTROL-
EJ&E WEST COMPANY

22/300

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS'
RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO ANY CHANGES TO EXISTING AMTRAK
SERVICE

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On behalf of the Champaign County Chamber of
Commerce Board of Directors

January 17, 2008



**Resolution Opposing Any Changes to
Existing Amtrak Service**

WHEREAS, the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce is a federation of 1330 business members that speaks as a unified voice, and

WHEREAS, one of the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce's objectives is to encourage and support economic development environment in Champaign County by creating and supporting a business climate that enables local companies to prosper, and

WHEREAS, this environment includes access to efficient, reliable passenger rail service; and

WHEREAS, Canadian National Railroad has submitted a request to the Surface Transportation Board to purchase the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad which may impact Amtrak travel times to Chicago's Union Station, and

WHEREAS, maintaining a strong and reliable transportation link between Champaign County and the City of Chicago is vital to the continued economic success of the local business community, and

WHEREAS, in 2007 Amtrak ridership from Champaign topped the 100,000 riders per year mark for the first time since 1985, which was the fifth highest ridership on record since 1979, and placed Champaign as the fourth busiest station in the Illinois system, and

WHEREAS, the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce supports continued Amtrak service and encourages more Amtrak destinations, reliability of passenger rail service from Amtrak, and increased frequency on Chicago routes, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce opposes any changes to the existing Amtrak service which increases route times and delays between the City of Champaign and the City of Chicago along the Canadian National railway line. The Public Policy Manager is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of the Surface Transportation Board.

Duly adopted this 16th day of January 2008 by the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Ingram".

Jeff Ingram, Chair of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Weis".

Laura Weis, President & CEO