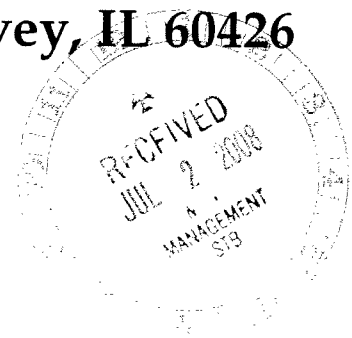


George Hawthorne
15425 Lexington Avenue
Harvey, IL 60426



June 9, 2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: CN Railway Company/EJ&E
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

The freight train congestion in Chicago and surrounding areas has become an increasingly frustrating problem. There seems to be no organization of route timing and freight trains can stop and idle for a significant amount of time at any given moment. Fortunately, CN has a plan to help refine the efficacy of freight travel which will help improve commuter travel. CN's purchase of a large section of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern rail line will improve the flow of both rail and road traffic. By redirecting many of their freight trains to the EJ&E line on the outskirts of Chicago, CN will help reduce the traffic congestion in the region.

As a resident of Harvey, I frequently get delayed by trains on a regular basis. Unfortunately, it's an everyday occurrence that has become a way of life for many residents. In addition to moving slow and making a lot of noise, the trains often stop and idle for long stretches of time – blocking roads and sidewalks. I would try to go an alternate route; however, gas is way too expensive for traveling longer distances around trains, so I have no choice but to wait, in hopes that I will not be there for too long. Furthermore, I live on the west of Harvey and when I am trying to get to River Oaks, there is a train there that basically cuts off the whole community.

Please do not delay approving this plan between CN and EJ&E. I strongly urge you to consider this proposal and evaluate the benefits it will have on Chicago and its surrounding communities.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Hawthorne".

George Hawthorne