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June 24, 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:

There is far too much freight train traffic concentrated in the Chicago area. Fortunately, CN has devised a plan to run freight trains along a railway that circumvents the area. This would require CN to purchase a portion of the EJ&E rail line, which in turn, would require your approval.

I have been residing in La Grange since 1977 and riding the Metra ever since. Metra is frequently delayed due to freight train traffic. Almost every other weekend, there is a 15-20 minute wait. Because of this, I have been obliged to go from taking the 8:03 train to taking the 7:03 train so as not to be late for work on weekends. Likewise, on the weekdays, I now take the 7:34 train as opposed to the 8:20 train. Naturally, I do not relish adding significant chunks of time to an already considerable commute.

Additionally, all the trains queuing up behind each other and blocking crossings create extensive backups on the roadways as well. This contributes to the level of pollution as both trains and cars are forced to idle, which causes both to emit additional toxins into the air. The only way to end this vicious cycle is to divert the freight traffic, so I hope you will see fit to provide CN with your speedy approval. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Karen Prue

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