

W. Gene Looft

80 Manchester Drive
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

May 22, 2008

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



Dear Secretary Quinlan:

I would like to take some time to voice my support for CN's acquisition of part of the EJ&E Railway. This transaction will bring measurable benefits to Chicago area residents.

As of now, it can take up to 24 hours for a freight train to travel through Chicago due to the extreme rail congestion. The longer it takes for a train to reach its destination, the more costly the process becomes. Moreover, the economic effects of these delays are only going to become more dramatic in the future. If congestion is not relieved, for example, studies suggest that Chicago will lose \$2 billion in production and 17,000 jobs over the next twenty years.

Rail congestion has also become a problem for drivers who frequently cross busy railroads. Although I am more concerned with the economic benefits that this purchase would bring, reducing the frequency of trains traveling through my area is also something I would like to see happen. It is obvious to most observers how long waits at train crossings frustrate drivers.

For these reasons, I ask for your support of CN's acquisition of part of the EJ&E. If congestion is not relieved soon, the city will experience unfortunate setbacks.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of W. Gene Looft in cursive script.
W. Gene Looft

cc: Senator Dick Durbin
Senator Barack Obama
Congressman Mark Steven Kirk