

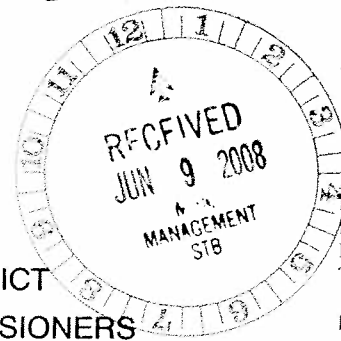
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June 2, 2008

Ms. Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Finance Docket no. 35087

Dear Ms. Quinlan,

As a member of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County, Illinois, I am writing to express my support of an established timeline for the completion of the environmental impact study (EIS) of Canadian National's acquisition of 198 miles of the Elgin Joliet & Eastern Railway. I encourage the Surface Transportation Board to recognize the importance of setting a target date for moving ahead with its analysis, as this project is important to the future of our region's railway freight system.

Protracted delays in completing the EIS are detrimental to the environmental and economic benefits that are expected to come from this acquisition. The easing of rail congestion on Chicago's urban rail lines cannot come too soon; the entire nation will benefit from the smoother flow and expedited transport of freight through the region. Travel times, pollution from idling trains and costs from shipping delays will be reduced with the re-routing of CN trains onto the under-utilized EJ&E line.

While I certainly support a careful and thorough EIS, I also encourage the Surface Transportation Board to strongly consider the positive impact of establishing a completion date in December. It's important to point out that the EJ&E transaction is significantly smaller and involves far fewer parties than in the last EIS prepared for a rail transaction, which took 11 months.

With full funding for the CREATE program in doubt, it is heartening that a private entity is willing to undertake a significant investment to begin to improve the Chicago region's freight transportation system. A fair and timely review of CN's EJ&E proposal is warranted.

Sincerely yours,

Larry Suffredin
Cook County Commissioner, 13th District

The 13th District includes the following communities:

49th & 50th Wards of the City of Chicago, the City of Evanston and the Villages of Glencoe, Glenview, Kenilworth, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Northbrook, Skokie, Wilmette, and Winnetka.

