

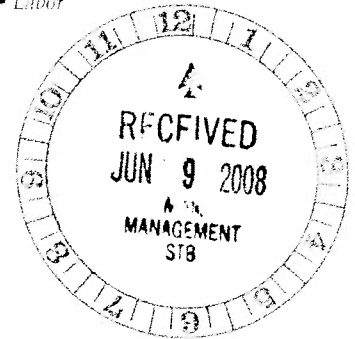
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Committees:

- Appropriations - Elementary and Secondary Education
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Illinois House of Representatives
Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez
State Representative • 24th District

May 30, 2008

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Secretary Williams:

As state representative of the 24th District, which includes all of Cicero and a portion of Berwyn, I would like to express my support of the Canadian National Railway Company's (CN) acquisition of the EJ&E West Company. The acquisition will improve rail service through the Chicago-land area, reduce congestion and have no adverse effects on competition.

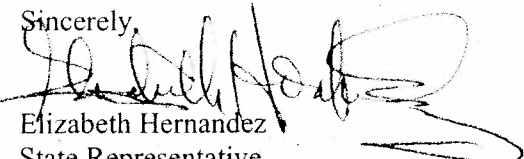
More than a third of all goods and products produced or marketed in the U.S. move on Chicago rails. Each day, 1200 trains move through the Chicago region. Because of the current congestion, it can take a freight train more than 24 hours to move the 30 miles between Chicago's northern and southern city limits, in addition to clogging national rail freight transportation. And current projections only predict that the problem will get worse.

I have a particular interest in this issue because if this transaction is approved, there will be a reduction of train traffic over the CN lines through my district from the current level of 4.5 trains per day to 0 trains per day from the east edge to Hawthorne Yard in Cicero, and from 4.4 trains per day to 2.7 trains per day from Hawthorne Yard west.

The EJ&E is an underutilized freight line in the Chicago region and use of this rail line can provide relief to many communities in the Chicago-land area. We need solutions in Illinois and I join the many elected officials, governmental organizations, businesses, community organizations and residents who support CN's proposed acquisition of the EJ&E line.

Thank you for your time and leadership. Please contact me at (708) 222-5240 if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Hernandez
State Representative
24th District