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

RE: Finance Docket No. 35087 – *Canadian National Railway Company and
Grand Trunk Corporation – Control – EJ&E West Company*

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

I am writing to you to show my support of the purchase of the EJ&E by CN. This acquisition would bring benefits for the region, the shipping public, and CN if we are allowed to use the now under-utilized EJ&E property as a way to reduce part of the chronic rail traffic congestion that plagues the Chicago region today. By acquiring the EJ&E, CN is offering the region a good solution to at least part of the problem – and this solution will be privately funded as well as deliver powerful economic and environmental benefits to greater Chicago and northwest Indiana as it begins to address the vision CREATE set forth.

Critics of the transaction would have you believe that making better use of the EJ&E isn't necessary, or even that it should be stopped – a tragic mistake for the health of the region's economy and the nation's rail network. Making the best use of existing assets is crucial to restoring the health of our congested rails and highways. The picture of a high quality, but underutilized asset sitting idly by when it could make significant strides toward relieving congestion, is like frittering away a natural resource -- one that we all need, and can ill afford to waste. The consequences of wasted resources are harsh.

According to CREATE, if severe regional rail congestion goes unchecked, it could cost the region \$2 billion in production and 17,000 jobs over the next two decades. (2005 CREATE Feasibility Study)

Supporting a strong regional transportation network that makes best use of existing assets, like CN's acquisition of the EJ&E, is essential to sustaining the region's economic vitality.

Therefore, I urge you to support this transaction in an expeditious fashion.

Sincerely,

CN


Mary Wallenfang
Risk Mitigation Manager