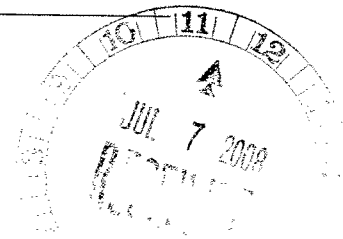


**John Tovel**

**1301 N. 23rd Avenue  
Melrose Park, IL 60160**



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

June 9, 2008

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

Alleviating the problem of freight trains excessively crowding our city streets is one that has personal relevance to me. As someone who has frequently encountered the problem of train-induced traffic, I am very supportive of CN's plan to redirect freight trains away from the heavily-populated parts of the Chicago metropolitan area to a route that would circumnavigate the city. In order to be able to make this vital change, CN needs authorization to purchase a portion of EJ&E Railway.

Although I am retired now, I was often late when I was working. The reason for my tardiness was almost invariably due to having to wait for freight trains to clear crossings. I estimate that the trains came by at roughly 80 to 100 cars at a time, causing delays of between 15 and 20 minutes as automobile traffic is backed up for blocks. Needless to say, this is very disconcerting for me and other working residents. Unfortunately, however, there has been little done to alleviate this congestion and the traffic tie-ups.

Recently, CN has come to the table with a solid plan to make commuters less vulnerable to the challenges of rail congestion. Their efforts richly deserve your approval and I hope you will grant it. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

John Tovel

cc: Senator Dick Durbin  
Senator Barack Obama  
Representative Luis Gutierrez