

DISTRICT OFFICE

8153 W GRAND AVENUE  
RIVER GROVE ILLINOIS 60171  
(708) 453-SKIP  
FAX (708) 453-7594

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
314 STATE HOUSE  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706  
(217) 782-3374  
FAX (217) 557-7211



ANGELO "SKIP" SAVIANO  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 77TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES

CHAIRMAN - REGISTRATION & REGULATION  
EXECUTIVE  
APPROPRIATIONS - PUBLIC SAFETY  
PUBLIC UTILITIES  
AGING  
ILLINOIS COUNCIL ON AGING

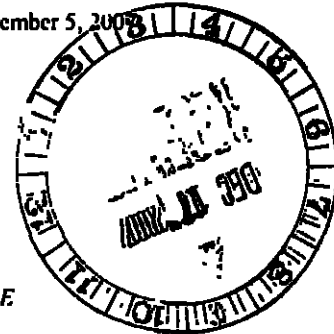
221071

December 5, 2007

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings

DEC 19 2007

Part of  
Public Record



The Honorable Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street S W  
Washington D C 20423

Subject *Canadian National Railway Co., et al - Control - FJ&E  
West Company, STB Finance Docket No 35087*

Dear Secretary Williams

I have reviewed the transportation impacts of the proposal by Canadian National Railway Company (CN) to acquire control over the FJ&E West Company, and have concluded that this transaction will improve rail service through the Chicago metropolitan area and that it clearly will have no adverse effects on competition. Therefore, I am pleased that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) designated this as a "minor" transaction, as defined by the STB in its Railroad Control regulations, and ask that the STB complete its environmental review process and approve the proposed transaction as quickly as possible.

I am particularly pleased to learn that there will be a substantial reduction of train traffic over the CN line through my district from the current level of about 19 trains per day. This will create capacity for more frequent Metra trains, and will reduce environmental impacts within my district, including air emissions, noise and grade crossing delays. More significant for the national rail transportation network, removal of trains from lines through the center of Chicago will free up capacity for other carriers and reduced energy consumption and transit times for traffic moving through the Chicago gateway on CN as well as other railroads.

I recognize that as train traffic moves off of downtown Chicago rail lines, some communities along the FJ&E right-of-way will experience train traffic increases. I understand that the STB will be looking at the impacts of this additional traffic in the context of the environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act, and that the STB may impose conditions, if appropriate, to mitigate those impacts. I have been told by CN that it is reaching out to those communities to identify these issues, and to assist these communities in addressing them as appropriate.

I do not believe that these localized impacts, which will be addressed fully in the STB's environmental review, outweigh the significant overall environmental benefits of this transaction on the region, much less the transportation benefits of the transaction to our nation. I urge the Board to complete its environmental review process expeditiously, and to approve the transaction as in the public interest.

Please enter these comments into the record of this docket.

Sincerely,

Angelo 'Skip' Saviano  
State Representative  
77th District

cc: All Parties of Record