

John Kahn
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May 19, 2008

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

Dear Secretary Williams:

As you may know, railway congestion in the Chicago region is an issue begging to be resolved. Fortunately, CN has decided upon a plan to address this issue. I am writing to you in support of CN's proposed acquisition of a part of EJ&E Railway so that this plan can be realized.

I think that being a magnet for freight rail has generally been helpful to our area. Being that we're in the central United States and we border Lake Michigan, Chicago has prospered as a railroad hub. Our current level of rail congestion is a problem, however, and something must be done to address it.

Congestion has a measurable effect on our services and our lives. For instance, Des Plaines requires at least two more fire stations. In planning to construct them, our fire department has to factor in the rail traffic and the delays that its slow movement currently causes. Moreover, in terms of my commute, I can leave my house in any direction and expect to be delayed at least 75% of the time. It's especially frustrating when I am on a time schedule.

CN plans to re-route existing freight traffic around the city, onto the EJ&E line. This is a viable course of action, because it is less costly than constructing more overpasses and underpasses. The benefits are clear. Please grant approval to CN's acquisition.

Sincerely,

John Kahn

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cc: Senator Dick Durbin
Senator Barack Obama
Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky