



FIRE DEPARTMENT
255 WEST DUNDEE ROAD • WHEELING, ILLINOIS 60090-2676
(847) 459-2662 • FAX (847) 459-2976

June 10, 2008

Ms. Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



RE: Finance Docket 35087 – Canadian National Railway/EJ & E West Company

Dear Ms. Quinlan,

As Fire Chief for the Village of Wheeling, Illinois, I am writing in support of the proposed acquisition of the EJ & E Railway by the Canadian National Railway.

Currently, the Canadian National Railway traverses our community on a daily basis and affects two (2) critical at grade crossings. As a result of a steady increase in the number of daily trains, these crossings are routinely affected sometimes for more than ten (10) minutes at a time. This train congestion adversely impacts the Wheeling Fire Department's emergency response capabilities to both sides of our community, as well as creates additional motor vehicle congestion within our community.

While I understand that Northeastern Illinois is a critical juncture to the Nation's rail freight transportation system, I believe the acquisition of the EJ & E Railway by the Canadian National Railway will help to lessen some of the rail congestion in our immediate area and enhance our current emergency response capabilities. While this proposed acquisition may shed some additional rail traffic into other areas of Northern Illinois, it will result in a more fair and balanced impact to all concerned.

If you should have any questions or wish to discuss this matter in more detail, please feel free to call me at (847) 459-2662 or contact me by email at kmacisaac@wheelingil.gov.

Sincerely,

Keith S. MacIsaac
Fire Chief

CC: J. Mark Rooney, Village Manager
Terri Cornelius, CN Community Outreach
File – Canadian National Railway