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September 4, 2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001



RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

SEP 15 2008
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Dear Secretary Quinlan:

I am writing on behalf of the Chinatown Chamber of Commerce. Founded in 1983, the Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce's mission is to improve and expand business opportunities and to educate others on the history, culture, and customs of the Chinese American community and to increase revenue streams for local businesses by making Chinatown a major destination point for visitors to the Midwest, State of Illinois and City of Chicago.

The Chicago Chinatown community has expanded in recent years and is bisected by the Canadian National line that runs from Lake Shore Drive southwest. Chinatown is heavily impacted by freight and commuter train traffic.

Under the CN proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway (EJ&E), the number of CN passing through Chinatown will be reduced to zero from five a day. For residents whose homes border the CN rail line, this reduction will be welcome relief.

The CN acquisition of the EJ&E will reduce the freight train congestion in the area, bypassing the overtaxed freight network in Chicago and nearby suburbs. Trains must idle and wait for passage, delaying shipping for businesses and increasing pollution for the residents of Chinatown and other communities. This proposed acquisition is a start towards relieving the rail congestion that threatens all business in the Chicago region.

In closing, on behalf of the Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, I urge the Surface Transportation Board to approve the CN acquisition of the EJ&E Railway.

Sincerely,

Raymond Spaeth
President
Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce