



City of Aurora

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Robert J. O'Connor
Mayor

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FD 35087 (Sub No. 8)

Ms. Rachel Campbell
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
January 23, 2017
Part of
Public Record

Re: STB Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Campbell:

Since 2008, the City of Aurora, Illinois has co-chaired with Barrington, IL a coalition known as TRAC made up of local municipalities and counties in the region to defend local government interests before and after the 2009 acquisition of the EJ&E-West Railway Company (EJ&E) by the Canadian National Railway Company (CN). I am writing to support the January 10, 2017 joint petition by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and Village of Barrington to institute additional mitigation measures in Barrington – specifically the request for a grade separation – as well as an extension of the oversight for the transaction.

Aurora believes that the Petitioners in this matter have provided compelling evidence that CN's imminent plans and current operations pose a greater problem than the STB had assumed they would in 2008. As such, additional mitigation for Barrington is in order. Additionally, the possibility of CN double-tracking more of the EJ&E rail line than had been detailed in its initial application to the Board merits a longer oversight period, so Aurora believes a positive ruling on both requests as detailed in the petition would be in order.

Sincerely,

Robert J. O'Connor
Mayor, City of Aurora