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West Cook Railroad Relocation and Redevelopment Authority
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Gary G. Marinaro
Executive Director

September 24, 2008

Acting Secretary Anne Quinlan
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423



RE: Canadian National Railway, Co., et.al. – EJ & E West Company
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Acting Secretary Quinlan:

The West Cook Railroad Relocation and Redevelopment Authority is committed to improve transportation options for the citizens of west suburban Chicago. In that capacity we strongly urge approval of the Canadian National's acquisition of the E.J. & E.

Our charge is to eliminate several at-grade railroad crossings which are part of the daily lives of Chicago's inner ring suburbs. But, as you can well imagine, eliminating at-grade crossings is enormously expensive and can take many years to accomplish. But traffic congestion can also be improved for our beleaguered residents by better planning of rail traffic – changes which can be implemented at significantly lower costs and in a much reduced timeframe.

By reducing and redirecting a portion of the rail traffic which is now responsible for untold hours of automotive and pedestrian delays, persistent noise and pollution and the constant safety concerns, the merger of these two rail lines will have a dramatic and positive impact on the lives of tens of thousands of west suburban Chicago residents.

We urge the Surface Transportation Board to approve the acquisition.

Sincerely

Gary Marinaro
Executive Director