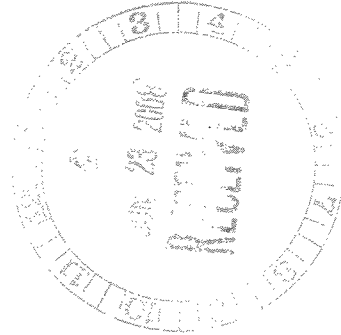


03770. 061208. LOONAM, POTZ. 66419. S. N. LTR

Joan Loonam
651 Ann Street
Dolton, IL 60419

June 12, 2008

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



RE: CN Railway Company/EJ&E
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

Maintaining a reliable system of freight movement is vital for the economic future of Chicago and its surroundings. Since the city relies on rail transportation for a good part of its economic well-being, keeping our infrastructure in top shape and developing efficient modes of transporting goods are issues that cannot be ignored.

Given all of this, it is upsetting to many residents that our current arrangement for freight trains is so inefficient - especially since moving goods by train is typically cost effective and timely. In fact, moving freight by train is 3 to 4 times more fuel-efficient than is moving the same by truck. Presently, however, freight trains are moving through Chicago at a snail's pace. Incredibly, it can take 24 full hours for a freight train to travel through the length of the city. Statistics like this cause me to think that we are failing to take advantage of the benefits that moving freight by rail provides. Clearly, something needs to change.

As if on cue, CN has stepped up and has offered a solution. As an internationally-renowned rail company, they have an intimate familiarity with how to get the most of their holdings. Their proposal to buy a portion of EJ&E and then move much freight rail traffic to the outskirts of the metropolitan area is something that has broad support. Considering the logic in spreading out freight traffic and easing pressure on rails, I believe that CN's undertaking should receive your swift approval. Thank you.

Yours Truly,

Joan Loonam

cc: Senator Dick Durbin
Senator Barack Obama