

WILLIE W. HERINTON
City of Memphis Mayor

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CITY OF MEMPHIS
AND
SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE



A C WHARTON, JR.
Shelby County Mayor

December 4, 2008

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



Subject: Canadian National Railroad -STB Docket No. 35087

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

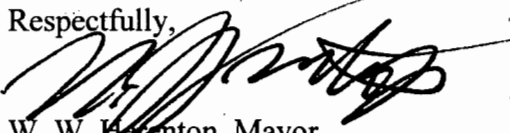
Memphis is one of only three cities in the country that have five Class I railroads and is therefore a very important link in the rail network for the country. In combination with our other transportation infrastructure including port, highway, and cargo airport operations, we are one of the largest distribution centers serving the nation's urban markets.

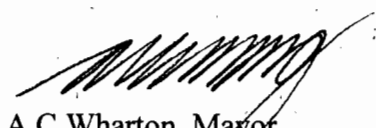
One of our strategic partners, the CN Railroad, has made application for acquisition and operation of the EJE rail line in the Chicago metropolitan area. This acquisition will reduce the number of trains in the core of Chicago and expedite the time to travel through the metropolitan area. We believe this rail connection will greatly benefit national commerce.

The nation is challenged with road congestion and inadequate funding to meet our road infrastructure needs. We are also faced with a growing carbon footprint that is affecting our air quality. The railroads can be a significant part of the solution in these important issues by reducing truck traffic on our roads as well as carbon emissions per ton of freight carried.

The CN Railroad has worked diligently to address any issues with this acquisition and we urge the STB to act positively as soon as possible on this matter.

Respectfully,


W. W. Herinton, Mayor
City of Memphis


A C Wharton, Mayor
Shelby County

cc: Senator Lamar Alexander; Senator Bob Corker; Representative Steve Cohen
Representative Marsha Blackburn; Representative John Tanner

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