

JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
9TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

1027 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
Telephone: 202-225-2111
Fax: 202-226-6890
TTY: 202-225-1904

01192.120707.SCHAKOWSKY. FED. 60640.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1309

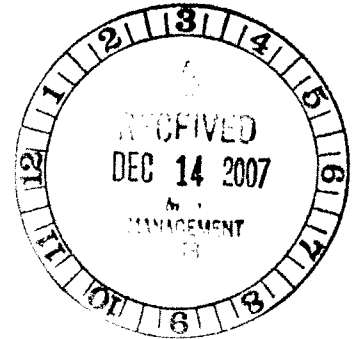
Johnson-Ball
5533 N. BROADWAY, SUITE 2
CHICAGO, IL 60640
Telephone: 773-506-7100
Fax: 773-506-9202
S.N.
820 DAVIS STREET, SUITE 105
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201
Telephone: 847-328-3409
Fax: 847-328-3425

1420 RENAISSANCE DRIVE, SUITE 102
PARK RIDGE, IL 60068
Telephone: 847-298-2128
Fax: 847-298-2173

December 7, 2007

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

RECEIVED
DEC 14 2007
OFFICE OF
PUBLIC AFFAIRS



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

Dear Secretary Williams:

I have reviewed the transportation impacts of the proposal by Canadian National Railway Company (CN) to acquire control over the EJ&E West Company, and it is clear that this transaction will improve rail service through the Chicago metropolitan area and that it will have no adverse effects on competition. Therefore, I am pleased that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) designated this as a “minor” transaction, as defined by the STB in its Railroad Control regulations, and ask that the STB complete its environmental review process and approve the proposed transaction as quickly as possible.

I am particularly pleased to learn that the Ninth Congressional District of Illinois will see a substantial reduction of train traffic, including the communities of Rosemont and Des Plaines, from the current level of about 19 trains per day to two trains per day. This will create capacity for more frequent Metra trains, and will reduce environmental impacts within my district, including air emissions, noise and grade crossing delays. More significant for the national rail transportation network, removal of trains from lines through the center of Chicago will free up capacity for other carriers and reduce energy consumption and transit times for traffic moving through the Chicago gateway on CN as well as other railroads.

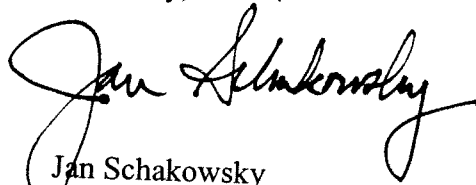
I recognize that as train traffic moves off of downtown Chicago rail lines, some communities along the EJ&E right-of-way will experience train traffic increases. I understand that the STB will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement to examine the impacts of this additional traffic, and that the STB may impose conditions, if appropriate, to mitigate those impacts. I have been told by CN that it is reaching out to those communities to identify these issues, and to assist these communities in addressing them as appropriate.

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
December 7, 2007
Page 2

I do not believe that these localized impacts outweigh the significant overall environmental benefits of this transaction on the region, or the transportation benefits that it will create for shippers in Chicago and around the country. I urge the Board to complete its environmental review process expeditiously, and to approve the transaction as in the public interest.

Please enter these comments into the record of this docket.

Sincerely,



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35057

Log and Distribution

Date Recd: _____

HDR File No: _____

Scanned (Initial): _____

STACT #: _____

Cc: Original - Job File

HDR