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Dear Tribune,

I would like to ask the people who live in towns along the EJ&E rail line to understand that their town only exists in large part due to the trains. Most every one of these towns was founded explicitly because of the train lines.

I would ask those people in those towns to realize that in the coming years their property and lives will be made much better and more valuable because of access to trains. They will live in towns with access to transportation and businesses will once again locate based on proximity to rail sidings. This will be a huge benefit to them.

As a nation we have lost site of the importance of trains after 60 years of postwar highways and personal transportation, but those days are numbered.

If this is blocked, we in Chicagoland will surely, over time, lose our standing as a rail center. We will all look back in shame that we were so short sighted as pass up this opportunity to preserve a valuable train line. It will be humiliating to see it as a burden rather than the great good fortune it is.

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I would be willing to testify
at any hearing to promote expanded
Rail.