

HOLDEN
AMERICA

June 20, 2008

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

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

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

I am writing in support of CN's proposed acquisition of the major portion of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E). This transaction will improve rail service in the Chicago metropolitan area, to the benefit of railroads and their customers as well as the Chicago and region generally.

I represent Holden America LLC and have lived for most of my life in the Chicago area. The City of Chicago is an important center for North American rail traffic, but the rail corridors in Chicago are congested. Policymakers have long recognized that action needs to be taken to reduce rail congestion in Chicago, and CN's proposed acquisition would help to reduce congestion by rerouting CN traffic from downtown to the less congested EJ&E line in suburban Chicago. The more efficient rail operations that will result will benefit CN and other railroads, as well as the business community that relies on rail service and the many communities in the city that will experience reductions in train traffic.

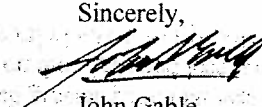
I fully understand the fact that more train traffic on the EJ&E will inconvenience people in neighboring towns. I lived in Hinsdale, IL, for 23 years (the BNSF runs through Hinsdale). I know what it's like to wait for a train for a few minutes. However, I also know that there is a much greater good that was served by the BNSF and will be served by the CN's acquisition of the EJ&E. Less traffic on the roads and less rail traffic throughout the metropolitan area of Chicago is certainly more important than the relatively fewer problems that this acquisition will cause.

I also urge the STB to approve this transaction expeditiously, as proposed by CN in its request for establishment of time limits for the environmental review and for issuance of a final decision. I support a meaningful environmental review to examine the impacts of moving train traffic off of downtown Chicago rail lines to the EJ&E, particularly as some communities along the EJ&E right-of-way will experience train traffic increases. The STB's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has been examining these issues for the last several months and has provided opportunities for community residents and officials to comment on the transaction. Interested parties also will have the opportunity to provide comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on this transaction once it has been issued.

I urge the Board to complete its environmental review process expeditiously, and to approve this beneficial transaction as in the public interest.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,


John Gable
Principal

cc: Victoria Rutson, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis

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