

October 31, 2008



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 Acting 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 Chicagoland region generally.

I represent Seabridge Int'l. Shipping Inc. in Canada, who move large volumes to / from Canada to / from Chicago for various principals we currently represent. We are a large shipping agency in Canada, and have been working with CN Rail for many years. The proposed acquisition would definitely increase the efficiency of cargo moving to / from the Chicago area, as well as create a more smooth operation in the greater Chicago area.

CN's proposed acquisition would help to reduce congestion in the Chicago region by rerouting CN traffic from its existing lines 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 rail customers such as my company. Importantly, the transaction also will reduce congestion for approximately 60 communities in the region, bringing meaningful environmental benefits to millions of people.

The reduced congestion and increased efficiency that this transaction would bring are important to rail customers and to the health of our nation's freight rail network. I urge the Board to recognize the many benefits of this transaction to the transportation system and to issue a final decision approving this transaction before the end of 2008.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

PAUL SIMS, Assistant Manager,
Operations and Import
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no pm