



E1-18718
FD 35522
DAW

June 14, 2011

Blue Island
Burnham
Calumet City
Calumet Park
Chicago Heights
Country Club Hills
Crest
Dixmoor
Dolton
East Hazel Crest
Flossmoor
Ford Heights
Glenwood
Harvey
Hazel Crest
Homewood
Lansing
Lynwood
Markham
Matteson
Midlothian
Mokena
Monee
New Lenox
Oak Forest
Olympia Fields
Orland Hills
Orland Park
Palos Heights
Park Forest
Phoenix
Posen
Richton Park
Riverdale
Robbins
Sauk Village
South Chicago Heights
South Holland
Steger
Thornton
Tinley Park
University Park

Mr. Kevin Keller
HDR Engineering, Inc.
4435 Main Street, Suite 1000
Kansas City, MO 64111

RE: Finance Docket No. 35522, CSX Transportation Inc.
Acquisition – Grand Trunk Western Railroad Company

Dear Mr. Keller:

On behalf of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA), representing 42 communities in southern Cook and Will Counties in Illinois, thank you for the opportunity to comment briefly on the matter referenced above.

SSMMA and our sister economic development agency, the Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation, have been very active in numerous transportation and economic development projects and activities in the south suburban area. We look forward to working with you on a continuing basis as you examine the various potential impacts of the proposed acquisition.

In general, we have three major areas of interest and concern.

- 1) Whistle blowing and noise impacts to adjacent communities - We need to explore the potential of establishing "quiet zones" along the line to minimize these impacts.
- 2) We would be quite interested to work with CSX to explore ways to maximize potential economic development and job creation opportunities created by this acquisition. We believe that there could be many opportunities to achieve redevelopment or development of industrial sites that could be served by CSX. Many of the communities along the line are economically disadvantaged and desperately need these development opportunities.
- 3) We strongly suggest that you work with Metra, SSMMA and our communities to determine the potential impacts on both existing and proposed commuter rail lines in our area. As you are aware, the Rock Island District, the Metra Electric District and the proposed Southeast Commuter Rail Line may be impacted either positively or negatively by this acquisition. This is a critical issue for our communities and our area.

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Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information in this matter and we look forward to actively working with you as this analysis moves forward.

Sincerely,



Edward W. Paesel
Executive Director

EWP/rak

cc: Mayor Don DeGraff, SE Commuter Rail Board
Mayor Rich Hofeld, President SSMMA
Mayor Dave Owen, Transportation Chair, SSMMA
Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Congressman Bobby Rush
Mike Scholefield, Southland EDC
Bud Fleming, SSMMA
Reggie Greenwood, SSMMA