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September 29, 2008

Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement on *Canadian National Railway Co., et al. – Control – EJ&E West Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Ball:

I am writing in connection with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared by the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) on CN's proposed acquisition of the major portion of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E). I support this transaction as it will improve rail service in the Chicago metropolitan area, to the benefit of railroads and their customers as well as the Chicago land region generally.

I am responsible for all rail, marine and truck logistics activities for Lafarge in the Great Lakes Region. My expectation is that CN's investment in EJ&E will generate efficiencies for both companies and provide Lafarge with the opportunity to move more volume via rail logistics.

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. SEA has conducted a thorough environmental review, providing opportunities over the past several months for the public to comment on the transaction and its impacts. The DEIS also includes voluntary mitigation proposals made by CN, and I am aware that CN is working with communities along the EJ&E line to reach agreements to address their concerns.

I urge SEA to keep in mind the many beneficial impacts of this transaction and to complete your work quickly so that the Board may review your findings and issue a final decision on this transaction before the end of 2008.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the DEIS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. Van Sloten'.

Alan Van Sloten
Director of Distribution