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September 23, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I am writing to submit comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement that was issued in July 2008 on the proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway by the Canadian National Railroad. I have previously submitted comments to Ms. Anne Quinlan.

As Alderman for the 10th Ward on the far southeast corner of the City of Chicago, I have reviewed the draft Environmental Impact Statement and I am convinced that this acquisition may offer flexibility to attract new businesses to locate in this area and an opportunity for the local economy to grow stronger.

Over the last several decades, my ward has been dramatically altered as the industries that originally built Chicago have consolidated, moved out, or simply gone out of business. In recent years, with the hard work of many local economic development professionals and the assistance of my office, we are proud to say that visible progress has been realized in attracting and retaining viable businesses. Now we are faced with a possibility of dramatically improving the current railroad network that serves areas in my Ward, but we need your attention and timely decision in order for the deal to remain viable for the owning companies.

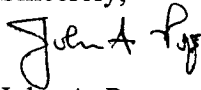
The safe and efficient movement of materials to and from locations is essential if we are to have a better chance of attracting more businesses. We are blessed with water, rail and highway access to our area, but if we had to rely on highway capacity to meet the needs of future growth here, the prospects of attracting new employers will be compromised due to capacity issues. We as a nation have to recognize what the most effective ways to



increase capacity for freight transportation are, and especially in my area, railroads will complement the port facilities while minimizing the strain on the existing highway network and can reach gateways to international markets more economically. If done intelligently, this can appeal to new businesses that are increasingly sensitive to their need to be able to compete globally.

As your process draws to a close, I urge you to move quickly to make this decision. It is not often that we are presented an opportunity by a private company to fund far-reaching improvements that can have dramatic benefits like this, and I urge you to not let this opportunity slip away by delaying your decision or by adding unwarranted conditions to the deal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Pope". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John A. Pope
Alderman, 10th Ward