



RAILWAY SUPPLY INSTITUTE, INC.

50 F Street, N.W., Suite 7030, Washington, DC 20001

(202) 347-4664 (P) / (202) 347-0047 (F)

www.rsiweb.org

Tuesday, September 2, 2008



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

W. Matthew Tonn
Standard Car Truck Company
Chairman

Marshall G. Beck
New York Air Brake Company
Vice Chairman

Thomas D. Simpson
Executive Director
Washington

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, the companies that supply equipment and services to the railroads, and the Chicago region generally.

I represent the Railway Supply Institute (RSI) which, with over 200 members nationwide provides goods and services to our nation's passenger and freight railroads and with offices in Washington, DC and Chicago, is the voice of the rail supply industry with government and the railroad industry. Railway supply companies sell more than \$20 billion annually in equipment, supplies, and services to the nation's rail systems. The industry employs more than 150,000 people in more than 500 companies throughout the United States, ranging from major corporations to individual entrepreneurs.

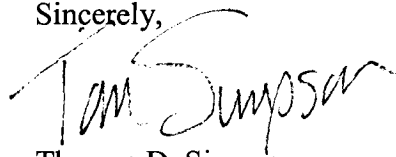
Railroad suppliers are well aware of the crucial role that Chicago plays in the rail operations of the nation and North American as a whole. With six of the seven Class I railroads converging in Chicago, together with other freight and passenger rail operations, Chicago is truly the nation's rail hub. Unfortunately, rail corridors in Chicago are congested, and relief is needed in order to promote more efficient rail operations.

CN's proposed EJ&E acquisition, which would enable CN to reroute its traffic from downtown to the less congested EJ&E line in suburban Chicago, would provide congestion relief for the region. While this transaction would not take the place of the comprehensive CREATE infrastructure public/private partnership, it would complement CREATE by taking an important step forward in relieving congestion and advancing CREATE's goals. This would benefit railroads and their customers, as well as the many communities in the downtown area that would experience reductions in train traffic. In addition, the significant investment in track improvements and roadway features along the route would create additional railway supplier jobs in the State of Illinois.

RSI supports and urges the Board to approve the transaction as in the public interest.

Thank you for your consideration of RSI's views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Simpson", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas D. Simpson
Executive Director – Washington