

03041.012808. McCLEARY. LOC. 61824.0.0.

January 28, 2008

Charles D. Nottingham, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Suite 1220
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Chairman Nottingham:

Fast and dependable train service is important to me and to my community. It will become more important as gas prices continue to increase.

Canadian National has submitted an application to you that does not adequately address the future of passenger trains linking Chicago to Champaign County, Illinois. Maintaining a strong and reliable transportation link between Champaign County and the City of Chicago is vital to the continued economic success and quality of life in Champaign County.

In 2007, Amtrak ridership from the Champaign station topped the 100,000 riders per year mark for the first time since 1985, making Champaign the fourth busiest station in Illinois. Other communities along the I-57 corridor are experiencing similar record-high numbers as well.

The proposed transaction could spell disaster to the continued success of Amtrak along I-57 as riders could experience longer travel times and increased delays. Also, since passengers connect between these trains and other trains at Chicago, deteriorated service on this corridor will impact passenger trains serving the entire country.

Therefore, on behalf of the Village of Savoy, Illinois and Champaign County, Illinois, I am voicing my opposition to any changes to the existing Amtrak service which increases route times and delays between Champaign County, Illinois and the City of Chicago along the Canadian National Railway.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Robert C. McCleary, President
Village of Savoy

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EI&B EIS - FD-35037

Log and Distribution

Date Received: _____

FDX File No. _____

Scanner (Initial): _____

STABCT# _____

Cc: Original - Job File

HDR