

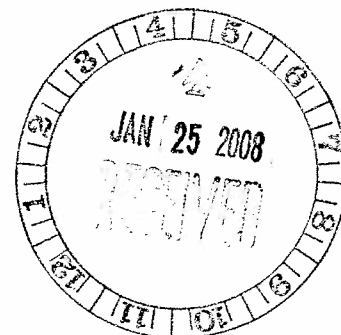


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MICHAEL J. YOUNG
SupervisorMELINDA S. REDMOND
AssessorWILLIAM B. SCHWARTZ
Highway CommissionerOLEN "Butch" BORDER, Jr.
Town Clerk

Board of Trustees: DELOBES WANZO PATRICK STEDELIN GARY JOE SANDERS GERALD "JERRY" RAY

January 22, 2008

Charles Nottingham, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W., Suite 1220
Washington, D.C. 20423-001REF: Finance Docket #35087 Canadian Railway & Grand Trunk Corporation
-Control- EJ & E West Company

Dear Mr. Nottingham;

I wish to go on record as *being opposed* to CN Railroads' Petition to the STB regarding Finance Docket # 35087, Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corp. -Control- EJ & E West Company.

This petition would result in stranding **Amtrak** and its users therefore effectively eliminating the *City of New Orleans*, which operates daily round trips between Chicago and New Orleans, and the *Illini* and *Saluki*, which is funded primarily by the State of Illinois, which together provide two daily round trips between Chicago, Champaign, Centralia, and Carbondale.

I support Amtrak's' recommendation on the new route known as the *Grand Crossing Route*, which would be an alternative should the Air Line Route be eliminated. However, no such route elimination should be granted until such time as the *Grand Crossing Route* can be fully funded and is completed.

Over 400,000 people use **Amtrak** into Chicago's' *Union Station* annually. Not providing access to *Union Station* would result in a serious economic setback for all of Illinois, and would be of particular hardship to the thousands of students in the Champaign and Carbondale are who rely upon this service daily. There would also be a significant negative environmental impact due to personal transportation, which would no doubt be used in lieu of more environmentally friendly **Amtrak** service.

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Downstate communities such as Centralia, who have 15,000 Amtrak passengers annually, would be dealt an additional economic blow to its already struggling regional economy. This is a regional issue affecting all communities in proximity to Amtrak service points throughout the State of Illinois.

I therefore respectfully request that CN's position in this matter **not be granted** until such time that the acceptable heretofore mentioned alternative is in place.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Young

Michael J. Young
Township Supervisor
Centralia Township LGU

Cc: Honorable Senator Barack Obama
Honorable US Senator Richard Durbin
Honorable US Congressman Jerry Costello
Honorable US Congressman John Shimkus
Honorable State Representative Kurt Granberg
Honorable Senator John O. Jones
Centralia Chamber of Commerce Director Bob Kelsheimer
Centralia Township Clerk Olen "Butch" Border, Jr.

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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