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March 25, 2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Acting Secretary Quinlan:

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ— 312-744-5087

Log and Distribution

Date Rec'd: _____

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STABCT: _____

Cc: Original to: _____

I write today in support of Canadian National Railroad's (CN) proposed acquisition of the Elgin Joliet & Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E). I believe this acquisition would improve our vital transportation network, which is essential to the region's continued success.

Also, this acquisition will bring a much-needed boost to the City's 3rd Ward, as rail traffic will be able to move more efficiently and smoothly through the city. This is a balanced solution towards environmental justice for our neighborhoods.

One third of all U.S. railroad shipments move to, from or through Chicago every year. As alderman of the 3rd Ward, I know first hand the large numbers of trains pass through the area each day. However, it can now take a freight train more than 24 hours to travel the 30 miles from Chicago's north side, through our neighborhood, to the south side. As a result, we experience idling trains and unnecessary delays at crossings, as trains try to traverse the congested tracks.





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I believe CN's plan will bring significant economic and environmental benefits to the region by rerouting rail traffic from the congested urban lines to the under-utilized EJ&E.

Fewer idling trains means less traffic delays, as well as decreased fuel emissions.

I strongly urge you to seriously consider this proposed acquisition. CN's plan will have many positive results for the entire metropolitan region.

Sincerely,

Pat Dowell
Alderman 3rd Ward

