

BILL SHUSTER
9TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

SUBCOMMITTEES:

RANKING MEMBER

RAILROADS, PIPELINES AND
HAZARDOUS MATERIAL

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

17358

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3809

November 21, 2008

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:

SEAPOWERS AND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

TERRORISM AND UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS
AND CAPABILITIES

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEE:

ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

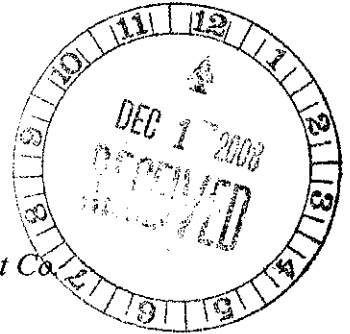
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS

RURAL HEALTH CARE COALITION

CONGRESSIONAL
SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS

Hon. Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423



RE: Finance Docket No. 35087, *Canadian National Rwy - Control - EJ&E West Co.*

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

As Ranking Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials, I am contacting you regarding this issue based upon the broad policy and system-wide issues raised by this proceeding.

Rail congestion in the Chicago terminal area has been a major concern for many years. As you know, one out of every three railcars transported in the United States moves through this gateway, and the lack of fluidity at this choke-point impacts shippers and carriers in all regions.

I am also aware of the controversy that has arisen over the local community impacts that will be imposed by the shift of CN's traffic through the center of Chicago to the proposed EJ&E route around the City of Chicago. I understand the concerns of those communities that will experience increased traffic, and I believe that the Board's environmental review process should be used to identify reasonable mitigation where appropriate to reduce those impacts.

However, the STB should place reasonable time limits on the environmental review process. I support a prompt resolution of the Board's environmental process, and the issuance of a decision regarding this transaction.

Sincerely,

Bill Shuster
MEMBER OF CONGRESS