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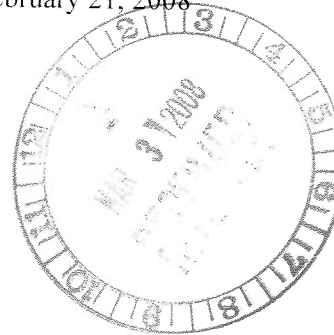
PARKS AND RECREATION

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February 21, 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:

I write today in support of Canadian National Railroad's (CN) proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company. CN has a solid plan to restructure rail traffic flow in our region, which will bring economic, environmental and public-safety benefits to the 4th Ward, the City of Chicago and the entire metro area.

Here in the 4th Ward, we are working hard to improve neighborhoods and boost economic development. We are developing plans to provide more green space and enhance the quality of life on the south side. Indeed, we share these goals with the entire city.

As it stands, however, south side residents must contend with more than their fair share of idling trains and unnecessary delays at crossings. Right now, it can take a freight train more than 24 hours to go from Howard Street on the north side of Chicago to 127th Street on the south side.

The CN plan to reroute trains around Chicago on the EJ&E helps to balance the scales of environmental justice for the south side. Line capacity in greater Chicago will be freed up to ease the effects of freight congestion in our neighborhoods. This is a balanced and responsible solution.

I urge you to support Canadian National Railroad's acquisition of the EJ&E. This plan deserves very real consideration, as the streamlining of rail operations will benefit the whole of metropolitan Chicago in many significant ways.

Sincerely,

Toni Preckwinkle
Alderman, 4th Ward

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E-15-000007

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