



E116279

December 8, 2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
STB Finance Docket No. 35087
395 E Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

Chicago Metropolis 2020 is a nonprofit civic organization created in 1999 by The Commercial Club of Chicago to promote long-term planning, better regional cooperation, and smart investments in the Chicago region and its people.

Of our own initiative, we commissioned an independent economic benefits study of the proposed purchase of the EJ&E Railway by Canadian National. The study was conducted by the Economic Development Research Group, a Boston consulting firm using state-of-the-art tools to evaluate the economic impact of infrastructure projects, and Carl Martland, a freight consultant and senior research associate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

I am pleased to attach the findings of this study and respectfully request that you add it to the public record for this transaction and further that you share it directly with the members of the Surface Transportation Board and others as you see fit.

We would be delighted to answer any questions about our process or put you in direct contact with our consultants should you or your staff desire additional technical data.

We believe this transaction has the potential to be very beneficial to the residents of the Chicago region and the entire nation. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim LaBelle'.

Jim LaBelle, Vice President

Attachments