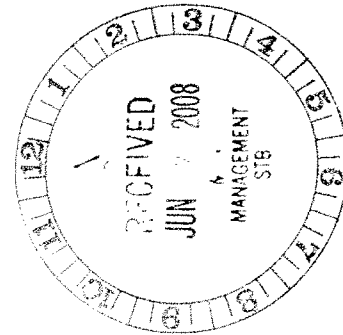


Bernard Menke

May 19, 2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423



Dear Secretary Quinlan:

As a resident of the greater Chicago area who does not have a driver's license, I am rather concerned about the state of train travel today. I see passenger trains taking an inordinate amount of time making their way through the city, causing delays and headaches for many of us.

Fortunately, a proposed solution to this problem is at hand in the form of CN Railway. Their plan to purchase EJ&E Railway should receive swift approval, as it stands to benefit our region. Specifically in my hometown of Franklin Park, it is estimated that freight trains, a source of great delay on the tracks currently, will stop less frequently here, on the order of 3 to 17 fewer such trains per day, if this acquisition is approved. This can't help but improve passenger train travel and make many residents much less reliant on cars. Less traffic on both the rails and the roads will have positive effects on our regional economy.

Creating solutions to our traffic and environmental problems is not easy. Our society has become used to slow-moving trains, and many, including me, often feel as though there is nothing that can be done about it. CN's approach is a giant step in the right direction, though. I hope that they are given permission to acquire EJ&E so that they can address this issue.

Sincerely,

Bernard Menke

Bernard W. Menke
cc: Senator Dick Durbin

Senator Barack Obama

Congressman Rahm Emanuel

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