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July 3, 2008

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

Subject: CN Railway Company/EJ&E, STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

The city of Chicago has a problem with railway congestion. I am reaching out to you in regards to CN's plan to relieve this congestion by re-routing abundant rail lines to the EJ&E. Before they can move forward with their plan, CN must purchase the EJ&E line. The purchase requires your approval. I urge you to support this transaction as it will greatly benefit this city.

I live near the 55th Street crossing. It sees a lot of freight trains; I'm always getting delayed at that crossing. It is not uncommon to see trains 100 cars long. The train congestion has been this way for a long time. Many years ago there was a petition to elevate the tracks, but it never happened. Moving the trains to the EJ&E line is a much more viable alternative as opposed to building costly overpasses.

When I moved here in 1925, all of the trains were underground. Then, in the late 20's, they moved the trains above ground. Since then, the train congestion has created an environment that brings me much concern, especially when considering the safety of the nearby children who go to school right next to the tracks.

I am a train enthusiast and I support the rail transportation of our city's region. However, if we are to see any sort of solution to the train congestion problem, CN is going to need to follow through with their plan. Please approve of CN's partial acquisition of the EJ&E line.

Sincerely,


George Lopac