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Mary Kiedrow
Executive Director

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
Finance Docket: 35087

August 26, 2008

Dear Ms. Ball:

I am writing to submit comments to the Surface Transportation Board relative to its draft Environmental Impact Statement on the CN's proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway.

The Mount Greenwood Local Redevelopment Corporation is a community focused nonprofit 501(c) (3). It was established in December 1994 to address the lack of investment and general deterioration of the Mt. Greenwood business district. We developed a vision for the business district in cooperation with the community, local business owners and local elected officials. We moved on to assemble more attractive parcels, initiated renovations on others, and persuaded owners to do their own investing in their properties. In essence, we have been stewards of the Mt. Greenwood business district.

For this reason, we feel it's important to voice our concerns with the Environmental Impact Statement drafted by the STB. The Mt. Greenwood Business District lies adjacent to the Canadian National Railroad. Blockages of these crossings affect our businesses, by discouraging customers from the other side of the tracks from risking train delays. The EIS seems to ignore the benefits to our communities and the need for mitigation at our grade crossings. The final EIS should reflect the benefits to the communities that will see fewer trains.

Secondly, the Surface Transportation Board's hearing process should include hearings in the positively impacted communities. Seven of the eight STB hearings are being held in the communities that will see increased trains under the CN acquisition of the EJ&E. Unfortunately, this makes it more difficult for supporters to attend and voice their support. In situations like this, hearings should be evenly split between positively and negatively impacted communities.

Finally, the STB must not diminish the overall need to reduce freight congestion in the Chicago region. Our communities fight for jobs and economic development everyday. Efficient transportation is key to the economic vitality of the Chicago region. You must not allow the voice of the few who live in the most affluent of communities, to doom the economic future of the many.

Thank you for your time and, on behalf of the Mt. Greenwood Local Redevelopment Corporation, I urge you to approve the CN acquisition of the EJ&E Railway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Kiedrow".

Mary Kiedrow
Executive Director MGLRC