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September 25, 2008

Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson Ball:

I am writing you today on behalf of the 6th Ward of Chicago, as it is essential that you consider the positive environment benefits of CN Railway's proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company.

Community members of the 6th Ward have been suffering for decades from the congestion caused by pollution from idling trains. Our community deserves the environmental justice that the CN acquisition will bring to the region while still maintaining Chicago as a major railway hub in North America.

CN Railway is offering an extremely viable, practical solution to the slowed railway traffic and fuel emissions that are occurring everyday throughout communities like ours. The acquisition would certainly mean fewer idling trains, less traffic and the air quality would increase immensely for all Illinois' citizens.

Furthermore, with freight trains being able to move more efficiently, it will eliminate the need to transport goods and services via trucks. Motorists and homeowners would also benefit in the significant reduction in truck traffic and the air quality would increase immensely for all Illinois' citizens.

The plan would be mostly funded with private money – a strong benefit in this day and age of government budget shortfalls.

I urge you to look at the overall benefits to the region before you issue a final environment assessment. CN Railway is offering a fair and just solution to rail congestion in Chicago with overall positive benefits for the State of Illinois.

Thank you for your consideration in this extremely important matter.

Very truly yours,

FREDDRENNA M. LYLE
Alderman, 6th Ward

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