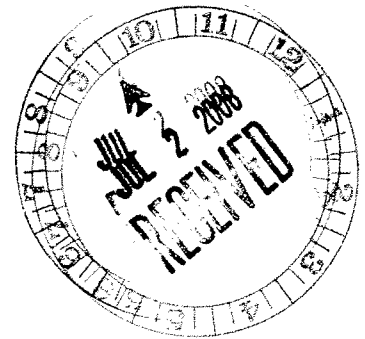


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Mary L. Kolodziej
14431 Sherman Avenue
Posen, IL 60469



July 1, 2008

Ms. Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
Fax: (202) 245-0460

RE: Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Acting Secretary Quinlan:

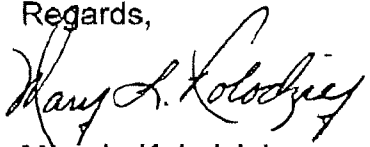
My name is Mary Kolodziej, and I am an employee of CN as well as a resident of Posen, Illinois. I would like to share my thoughts with you about CN's proposal to acquire the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway. The EJ&E is an existing railroad that encircles the entire Chicagoland area, which is currently plagued with rail traffic congestion. Better use of this property offers a very efficient way to make freight connections and will make a much more attractive option for shippers that use railroads, and it has an additional benefit of saving motorists some frustration by decreasing the amount of time they will wait at crossings in the city. All this will be done with CN's money, not tax dollars.

Because I've lived in Posen all of my life, I am well aware of the rail traffic delays encountered by motorists (there are three railroads on Western Avenue from 143rd to 130th). As an ex-employee of St. Francis Hospital and Health Center, (soon to be MetroSouth Medical Center) I know first-hand of their daily contention of rail traffic. Ambulances and emergency vehicles still manage to get to the hospital in a timely fashion via other routes, so they would do the same in other communities. I believe that the Blue Island area, as well as several other communities, would experience a reduction of rail traffic after the acquisition of EJ&E by CN. Wouldn't it make the Chicagoland region safer if rail traffic were distributed more evenly among all the communities rather than having it highly concentrated in just a few?

I feel very strongly that you should be encouraging private industry to come up with transportation solutions. I know there are other issues, such as grade separations at every crossing, but I believe that is an unrealistic expectation to have. Past experience indicates that those will come in time, and CN has already said that they will help fund them if they do. However, we have existing problems with the roadways and highway bridges, and more use of rail can take pressure off the roadways if they move at least part of their routes by rail. From a motorist's point of view, another huge benefit that CN can bring to the country, would be successfully enticing trucks off the highways, especially in the Chicagoland region. Fewer trucks on the roadways would translate into saving funds for the state in terms of expensive road repairs.

I urge the STB to approve this transaction quickly. It will be beneficial for the transportation industry throughout the Chicagoland region, as well as, the safety of communities and motorists. This acquisition is also advantageous to consumers because commodities will get to their destinations sooner, thus boosting the economy with availability of commodities on the market for consumption.

Regards,



Mary L. Kolodziej

cc:

The Honorable Jesse Jackson, Jr.
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United States Senate
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The Honorable Barack Obama
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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:

Ms. Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary

FROM:

Mary L. Kolodziej

COMPANY:

Surface Transportation Board

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07/01/2008

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☒ URGENT ☐ FOR REVIEW ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE REPLY ☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Dear Acting Secretary Quinlan:

The following letter is for your review and consideration.

Regards,
Mary L. Kolodziej
