



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

RICHARD M. DALEY
MAYOR

January 15, 2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan, Esq
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Subject: *Canadian National Railway Co., et al - Control - EJ&E
West Company*, STB Finance Docket No. FD-35087-0

Dear Acting Secretary Quinlan:

My staff has reviewed the transportation impacts of the proposal by Canadian National Railway Company (CN) to acquire control over the EJ&E West Company, and have concluded that this transaction will improve rail service through the northeastern Illinois region and will have no adverse effect on competition. We therefore ask that the STB complete its environmental review process and approve the proposed transaction.

The City of Chicago currently suffers from congested rail corridors into and out of the City. This congestion not only delays movement of trains traveling through the region, but results in blocked grade crossings and idling locomotives outside of congested yards, which adversely impacts adjoining neighborhoods, degrades air quality, and wastes energy. The City of Chicago is a partner in and strong supporter of CREATE, which was designed to reduce rail congestion around the region. We believe this transaction will advance specific CREATE objectives more expeditiously than envisioned by CREATE and without the need for public funding.

As train traffic moves off of certain CN lines throughout the region and is consolidated on the EJ&E, some communities along the EJ&E will experience negative impacts from the additional train traffic they will experience. We urge the STB to address the concerns expressed by these municipalities and work with them to mitigate any unintentional negative impacts that they may experience due to this action.

Additionally, we have a concern regarding the impact of this acquisition on Amtrak and request the STB to join us in asking that CN work with Amtrak to identify and alleviate any negative operational impacts that may result from the acquisition.

Surface Transportation Board
N-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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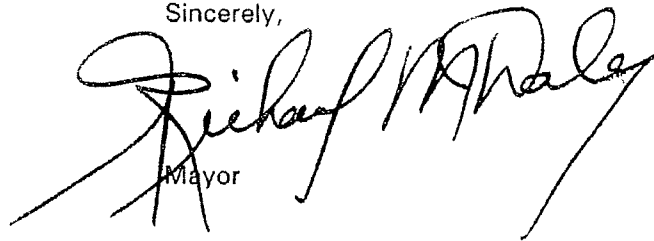
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These concerns notwithstanding, we urge the Board to complete its environmental review process in an efficient and thoughtful manner, and to approve the transaction as in the public interest. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard M. Daley
Mayor

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January 17, 2007

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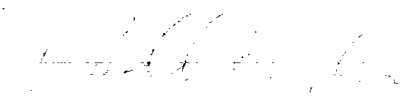
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395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**Re: Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation –
Control – EJ&E West Company (STB Finance Docket No. 35087)**

Dear Ms. Quinlan:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced docket are statements by The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago, The Honorable Bart Stupak, United States Representative, and Richard A. Hofeld, President of the Village of Homewood, Illinois in support of the transaction proposed in the Railroad Control Application (CN-2, filed October 30, 2007). We understand that the parties are mailing their signed originals directly to the Board.

Very truly yours,


Paul A. Cunningham
Counsel for Canadian National Railway Company
and Grand Trunk Corporation

Enclosure

cc: All parties of record