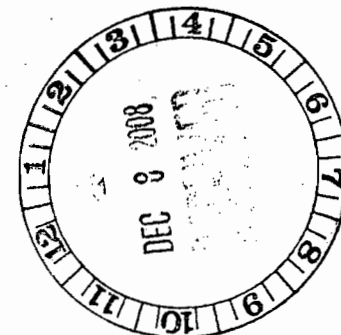




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Donald C. McCrory
Executive Director



November 24, 2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

I am writing again to reinforce my letter of November 21, 2007, to the Surface Transportation Board concerning the Canadian National purchase of the EJ&E railroad. CN has proposed to purchase the majority of assets of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway in the Chicago region in an effort to improve the speed and efficiency of their operations. CN's acquisition of the EJ&E will decrease transit time across that area and alleviate local rail congestion. Warehousing and distribution facilities in the Memphis area will benefit by seeing significant transit time savings that will attract businesses and provide much needed employment opportunities for this region.

The Port of Memphis and the greater Memphis region are uniquely situated to take advantage of rail, highway, and waterway modes of transport, leading to its slogan, "North America's Distribution Center". One of the attractions for businesses to use Memphis as an intermodal facility is the level of rail service that CN brings. Much of the traffic that originates on CN comes to us from the north, that is, via the Chicago region and beyond.

The Port of Memphis has over 150 industries with five thousand employees and an annual economic impact of over 6.5 billion dollars. Many of the facilities located within the Port have access to and utilize rail lines operated by the CN railroad. The Port is also the home to Intermodal Gateway Memphis, owned and operated by CN, but shared with CSXT railroad. The intermodal project, along with several recent large projects by CN has enhanced the attractiveness of the region as a major distribution center.

All parts of the country have to work together in order to overcome the current economic challenges. You can help in that challenge by completing the CN's application for purchase of the EJ&E, thereby allowing the transaction to take place before the end of the year.

Sincerely,


Donald C. McCrory
Executive Director

cc: Senate: TN - Lamar Alexander & Bob Corker
House: TN - Steve Cohen, Marsha Blackburn & John Tanner

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