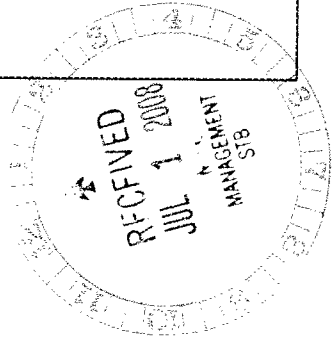


Richard Van Spankeren
967 Parker Lane
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May 20, 2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

As a resident of the Chicago area since 1978, I've seen, first-hand, the increase in rail traffic. The frequency of freight trains coming through my community of Buffalo Grove is a large inconvenience for residents. From an economic perspective, there's also a loss in productivity when trains sit idle on congested tracks. Eventually, if there is no change, this could result in lost jobs and other unfortunate economic effects.

CN railway's proposed acquisition of part of EJ&E railway would send many of its freight trains away from Buffalo Grove and onto less congested tracks.

Re-routing freight traffic would be helpful in two ways: Goods would be moved more efficiently to their destinations, and rail congestion and air pollution in our area would be lessened.

I support the proposed acquisition and hope that you will approve it as quickly as possible. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Van Spankeren". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a long, sweeping tail on the last name.

Richard Van Spankeren

cc: Senator Dick Durbin
Senator Barack Obama
Congressman Mark Steven Kirk