



Russell A. Peterson
President

519 Cedar Way, Bldg. 1, Suite 100
Oakmont, PA 15139
Phone: 412.426.2000
Fax: 412.426.4000

November 17, 2008

Ms. Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20423-0001



Re: Canadian National Railway Company
EJ&E West Company (STB Finance docket No. 35087)

Dear Ms. Quinlan, Esq.,

After 39 years in the service of public necessity and convenience by rail, I hold it to be self evident that CN's acquisition of EJ&E achieves the highest of benefit to public necessity and convenience.

It is clearly understood that the CN network is of enormous importance to North America. It is also widely known and understood that Chicago Region rail congestion impedes public necessity and convenience on a national and international level. Moreover, the CN network itself is particularly impaired by congestion in Chicago.

As a result of smart and well executed acquisitions, CN has assembled a three-spoke network extending from its Chicago hub to the Pacific, the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico. The missing link in this great picture is at the hub. We the people need to provide that link in order for the whole CN network to function as smartly and efficiently as it has the potential to function.

This missing CN link is available; however, it may not always be available. As we all know, the vital link is the EJ&E and the opportunity to acquire it expires December 31, 2008.

The single most brilliant act that a governing body, in this case the STB, could apply to these public assets is to integrate them by approving CN's purchase of the EJ&E in a timely manner.

The single most unconscionable act that a governing body, in this case the STB, could apply to these public assets is to fail to integrate them by not approving the \$300,000,000.00 purchase in a timely manner due to administrative proceeding or lack thereof.

pm
11/17

Russell A. Peterson
President
519 Cedar Way, Bldg. 1, Suite 100
Oakmont, PA 15139
Phone: 412.426.2000
Fax: 412.426.4000

Considering the overwhelming transportation efficiency benefit to public necessity and convenience, it is highly irregular that this has been before the STB since September 2007 without approval. CN has made available to the public and the STB every reasonable approach to get this done.

We the people ask STB to approve this transaction well prior to December 31, 2008 based on its obvious transportation benefits and subject to holding CN accountable for reasonable mitigation of environmental impact.

Anything less would be hard to understand as being in the best interests of the United States of America, the protection of public necessity and convenience, the users of the North American railroad network and the great Canadian National Railway Company, its stockholders, employees, vendors and stakeholders.

Keep your eye on the ball. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Russell A. Peterson
President