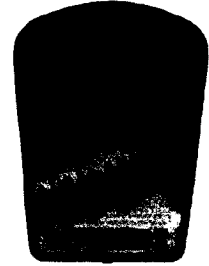


13682



31 RIVERSIDE ROAD • RIVERSIDE, ILLINOIS 60546-2299 • 708/447-2127

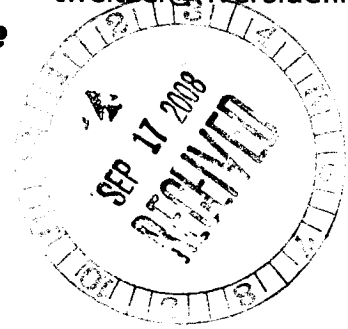


8 September 2008

tweitzel@riverside.il.us

Office of the Chief of Police

Ann Quinlan, Esq. Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423



Dear Secretary Quinlan:

This is a letter of support, on behalf of the Village of Riverside Illinois, for Canadian National's proposed acquisition of the *Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway*.

Every day approximately over 500 passenger trains and freight trains move through the metropolitan Chicago area, which includes Riverside, Illinois. Freights are one of the most environmentally responsible means of transportation. They emit 3 times less carbon dioxide into the air than trucks. One freight can carry the same amount of cargo as 280 semi trailer trucks.

As far as safety is concerned, if the acquisition was approved, the likely rate of train accidents on the EJ&E per million train miles would decline. Risk to pedestrians and bicyclists inside and on the EJ&E rail line would also see a net decrease and passenger safety possibly improved.

Existing rail congestion can force a freight train to take more than one entire day (24 hours) to travel throughout Chicago, an area that is only about 30 miles in length! *In that same 24 hours, a CN freight can travel from Chicago to Winnipeg in western Canada; approximately 860 miles!* We sorely need to improve our rail system to accommodate the growing flow of commerce throughout our region. Based on a 2005 Feasibility Study, if rail capacity remains unaddressed, Chicago could likely lose \$2 billion in production, impacting up to 17000 jobs over the next 20 years.

Not only would more than 60 communities, including Riverside, experience rail congestion relief, but property tax revenues would be unaffected by the transaction, as the proposal would not require use of developed lands.

Sincerely

Tom Weitzel

Chief Thomas Q. Weitzel

psm