

Missouri
Department
of Transportation



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June 24, 2002

Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

205766



Re: FD #34177 – Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad Corporation—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Lines of I&M Rail Link, LLC

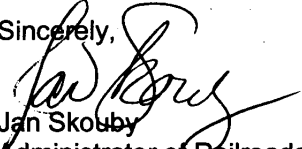
Dear Mr. Williams:

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) opposes the “Notice of Exemption” filed by the Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad Corporation to acquire and operate the rail lines and assets owned by the I&M Rail Link, LLC.

We believe this exemption should be denied and the transaction should be considered as a consolidation or merger of two Class II railroads. The current exemption process provides inadequate time and information to review the full transaction. The transaction is more than just a non-carrier acquiring an operating railroad. MoDOT asks the STB to stay this exemption and establish a procedural schedule to provide opportunities for affected communities, shippers, railroads and others to review the details of the proposed transaction, and to seek protective conditions and mitigation if necessary.

Please note that MoDOT remains neutral on the transaction. We neither support nor oppose this transaction at this time. Our concern centers on the opportunity for the Department, shippers, communities and other interested parties to adequately review the potential impact of the transaction and participate in the STB proceedings.

Sincerely,


Jan Skouby
Administrator of Railroads

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Office of Proceedings

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Public Record

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Departments of Transportation: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, Wisconsin

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