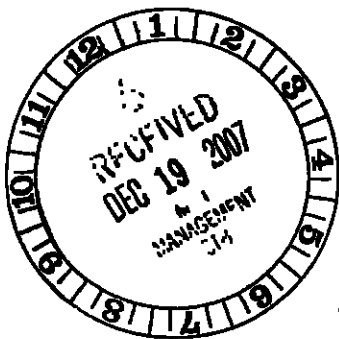


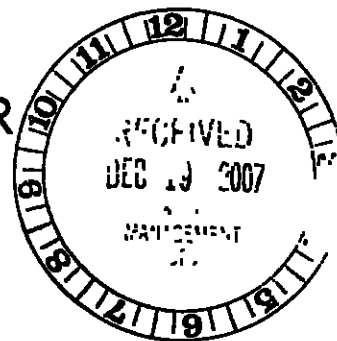


Anthony W. Arredia

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

City of Des Plaines

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December 12, 2007

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

221072

Subject: *Canadian National Railway Co., et al - Control - EJ&E
West Company, STB Finance Docket No. 35087*

Dear Secretary Williams:

I write this letter in support of the proposal by Canadian National Railway Company (CN) to acquire control over the EJ&E West Company because this transaction will not only improve rail service through the Chicago metropolitan area but will reduce train traffic and congestion throughout the City of Des Plaines. I am also in agreement that the STB complete its environmental review process and approve the proposed transition as quickly as possible.

I was pleased to learn that there will be a substantial reduction of train traffic over the CN line through my city from the current level of about 19 trains per day to 2 trains per day. This will address a problem that has plagued our community for years!!

I recognize that as train traffic moves off of downtown Chicago rail lines, some communities along the EJ&E right-of-way will experience train traffic increases. I understand that the STB will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement that will assess the impacts of this increased traffic and impose conditions, if appropriate, to mitigate those impacts. I have been told by CN that it is reaching out to those communities in order to identify issues, and address them as appropriate.

I urge the Board to complete its environmental review process expeditiously, and to approve this transaction so that the residents of the 57th District and shippers from around the State and Nation can begin seeing the benefits it will bring.

Please enter these comments into the record of this docket.

Sincerely,

Tony Arredia
Mayor
City of Des Plaines, IL

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