

**ILLIANA
CHRISTIAN
HIGH SCHOOL**

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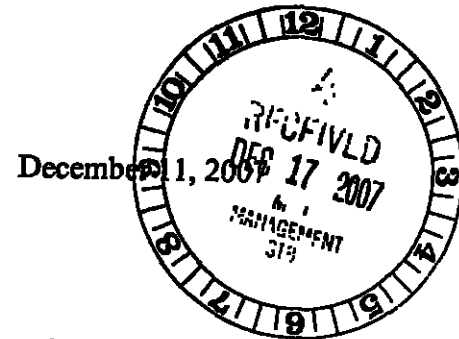
Peter Boonstra Principal - Calvin Scott, Vice Principal

"In the Challenge of His Service"

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation
– Control – EJ&E West Company (STB Finance Docket No. 35087)

**VERIFIED STATEMENT OF
Peter Boonstra
On behalf of Illiana Christian High School**



December 11, 2007

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

DEC 19 2007

Part of
Public Record

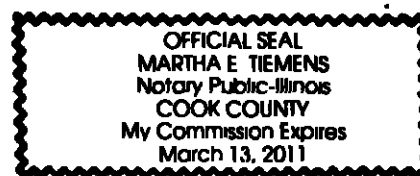
My name is Peter Boonstra and I am Principal of the Illiana Christian High School located at 2261 Indiana Ave, Lansing, Illinois. I have held this position for eight years. I am writing to express my support for Canadian National's acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern (EJ&E).

It is my understanding that the acquisition would result in a reduction of train traffic through our town and past my school, I believe from 20 trains daily to seven. This would have a significant positive impact on the quality of education for the 670 students in my school. The positive impact would be two fold. First, fewer students would be delayed in getting to school because they had to wait for a train. The Grand Trunk line cuts across two of the main access roads to my school. Secondly, the numerous interruptions we experience in our classrooms from train horns and noise would be reduced. Teachers often have to stop teaching until the train goes by. If those interruptions can be reduced by more than half, that will have a very positive impact on the quality of education. Finally, there is always a measure of danger around railroad tracks. A reduction in the number of trains here would proportionately reduce the possibility of harm coming to my students or others in this area.

Also, I can speak for the thousands of people who live in the area along the tracks. I know that they moved in knowing they were going to be near a rail line, but the frequency of trains still has a significant negative impact on the peace and quiet of their lives. If there is a means to reduce the frequency of train traffic on the Grand Trunk line that runs through this area, I am sure they would all be supportive of that reduction.

In summary, I urge you to approve the changes necessary to reduce the amount of disruptive train traffic passing through this congested area.


Peter Boonstra, Principal
Illiana Christian High School



Martha Tiemens
12-11-07