



Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

Wisconsin Manufacturers'
Association • 1911

Wisconsin Council
of Safety • 1923

Wisconsin State Chamber
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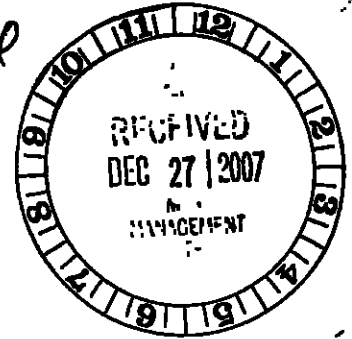
December 21, 2007

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

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Public Record



Subject Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Truck
Corporation Control - EJ&E West Company (STB
Finance Docket No 35087)

**Verified Statement of
R.J. Piriot
On behalf of
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce**

My name is R J Piriot and I am the Director of Legislative Relations for Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC) WMC is a business association working to advance policies that are in the public interest of Wisconsin and the United States of America WMC has approximately 4,000 members, members that include both large and small manufacturers, service companies, local chambers of commerce and specialized trade associations Promoting a healthy business climate since 1911, WMC is a merger of the Wisconsin Manufacturers Association, the State Chamber of Commerce and the Wisconsin Council of Safety

WMC supports Canadian National Railway Company's (CN) acquisition of the EJ&E West Company Wisconsin manufacturers and our other industries are heavily dependent on a robust transportation network in order to remain healthy and vibrant Moreover, Wisconsin is one of the most manufacturing-intensive states in the United States Wisconsin ranks second in the nation in manufacturing jobs as a percentage of the state's total workforce Wisconsin's economy is critically dependent on the health of its manufacturing sector Traditionally, manufacturing jobs have been good-paying jobs with good benefits Wisconsin needs to retain these good jobs and, importantly, to create more of them

Affordable and reliable freight rail service is a critical component for a robust transportation network and is vital to the continued health of Wisconsin industries CN's acquisition of the EJ&E Company would benefit Wisconsin industries by: reducing rail congestion in the Chicago region, streamline rail operations, and afford CN opportunities to improve operations across its network

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While many factors contribute to a good business climate, access to a reliable and affordable freight rail network is an absolute necessity for our jobs, our economy and our families. As such, WMC respectfully requests the Surface Transportation Board to approve this acquisition as a minor transaction.

VERIFICATION

State of Wisconsin
County of Dane

R J Piriot, being first duly sworn, affirms that he has read this document, knows the facts cited therein, and that the same are true as stated.


R J Piriot

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21st day of December, 2007


Notary Public

My commission expires To Perpetuity