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# Little Village Chamber of Commerce

www.lavillitachamber.org



AUG 7 2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan  
Acting Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

I am writing in support of the Canadian National application to acquire the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway (EJ&E).

Little Village is a thriving commercial area in Chicago's West Side with more than 1,000 businesses that offer a vast array of goods and services. It is also home to the largest Mexican community in the Midwest, a fact reflected by the many unique Mexican specialty products available from merchants in the area. Businesses in Little Village create jobs for thousands of residents.

The Little Village commercial area generated nearly \$900 million in sales in 2001, a year that saw the nation endure a severe economic downturn. This fact reflects the perseverance and creativity of the area's business owners and residents and serves as testament to the community's vitality.

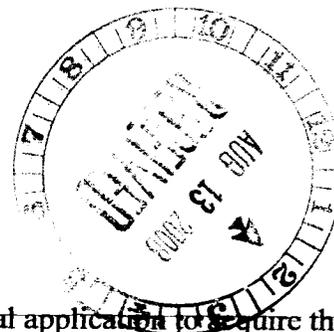
Rail congestion in Chicago and in our area makes it difficult for Chicago area businesses, especially those adjacent to congested rail yards, to move their products. This adds time and money to their costs.

The Surface Transportation Board should move to reduce the congestion that is jeopardizing Chicago's role as a center for railroad transportation and help the Chicago businesses that struggle every day to reduce costs.

On behalf of our members, we urge you to quickly approve the Canadian National Railroad's acquisition of the EJ&E railroad and start reducing the overburdened rail system in Chicago.

Sincerely,

Monalinda Saldivar  
Director of Special Events



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