



Village of Homewood

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September 5, 2014



Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington DC 20423

236653
ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
September 11, 2014
Part of
Public Record

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35087, Canadian National Ry. & Grand Trunk Corp.
-Control-EJ&E West Co.

Dear Ms. Brown:

I have been advised that the Surface Transportation Board has received a filing that proposes to extend your oversight on CN with regard to their purchase of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad.

The Village of Homewood is proud to be the home of CN's U.S. headquarters. Homewood is located on the CN mainline, not on the EJ&E line, and we enjoy a very professional and productive relationship with CN. I feel this is important to share with you as you consider the petition to extend your oversight of the EJ&E transaction. I am aware of criticism of CN by some elected officials. This effort to continue to discredit CN and this transaction reminds me of the folks who move to the O'Hare airport area and then complain about the planes. Homewood has always been "on the CN's tracks" (and its predecessor the I.C.) and we have found CN to be an exemplary, co-operative neighbor and corporate partner. It is important for you to know how responsive, reliable and caring they are to the community. In Homewood alone:

- CN employs over 800 persons
- CN was courted to move to Indiana but chose to stay and EXPAND their operations in Homewood.
- CN just completed a 75,000 square foot, state-of-the-art training center in Homewood.

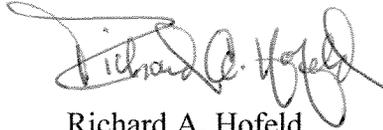


- Over 100 employees per week, from throughout the United States, are brought here for training. These new employees, plus the new training staff, all eat, sleep and shop in Homewood and the south suburbs.
- CN is an active, willing participant and contributor in and to local south suburban events and projects.

Our residents and businesses consider CN to be a great corporate neighbor, and in the south suburban area, where jobs are so important, CN is a key employer. We have both worked to establish a mutual relationship of trust and cooperation, which is evident in their everyday operations.

In my work as Mayor in Homewood, as well as my interaction with other communities and through the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (which includes communities where the EJ&E operates), I hear examples of how CN is living up to what they said they would do. It appears that those efforts to extend your oversight are misdirected and somewhat self-serving. In the interest of maintaining a strong area transportation network, one that has adhered to the standards your Board has established, CN has proven their worth. The economic impact of their operation, as well as being responsive to neighboring communities is proven. In light of the above, I request that you allow the pre-existing oversight deadline to expire. The standards have been met or exceeded.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Hofeld
Mayor

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