

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Chancellor

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



236790
NOR 42134

September 12, 2014

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
October 9, 2014
Part of
Public Record

Chairman Daniel R. Elliott III
Surface Transportation Board
395 East Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman Elliott,

I am writing in support of Amtrak's recently filed complaint calling for an immediate investigation into the dreadful on-time performance of the Chicago-Champaign-Carbondale train. I am dismayed to learn the Chicago to Carbondale route has become the least on-time train of its kind in the country because of the freight train interference from Canadian National.

As Chancellor of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, I know it is imperative that we have reliable on-time train service into Champaign. Our faculty, staff and especially our students rely on the train for regular transportation to campus. Poor service jeopardizes our ability to attract the best faculty and students to the campus. Additionally, reliable train service is essential for our 8,000 international students who come to campus through Chicago.

I request that you investigate the poor on-time performance associated with this route and work with Amtrak and Canadian National to have it rectified. It is imperative that the university has reliable train service for our 42,000 students, 2,500 faculty and 7,800 staff.

Sincerely,

Phyllis M. Wise
Chancellor