



City of
CHAMPAIGN

Donald R. Gerard
Mayor & Liquor Commissioner

September 16, 2014

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

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

Dear Chairman Elliott,

I am writing of Amtrak's filed complaint calling for an investigation on freight train interference by Canadian National (CN) affecting timely arrivals of Amtrak passenger trains. The performance of the Chicago-Champaign-Carbondale train has become the least on-time train of its kind in the country. The law provides Amtrak preference on our nation's rail lines, yet despite this, freight train dispatchers make Amtrak trains sit and wait while long, slow trains pass them on the tracks.

The University of Illinois resides in Champaign-Urbana; many students and workers rely upon this mode of transportation to reach their destinations on schedule. Our economy is being negatively impacted by the increasing number of late passenger trains. I beseech the STB to take a strong stand in this matter so Amtrak's rights to the rails are retained and protected.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mayor Don Gerard
City of Champaign