

# MATTOON

MATTOON, ILLINOIS: *Working Together to Build the Future*

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OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN

Chairman Daniel P. Elliott III  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20433

Dear Chairman Elliott:

As Mayor of the City of Mattoon, I receive numerous complaints regarding Amtrak trains pulling onto a siding to allow slow moving Canadian National (CN) freight trains to pass. This has caused a terrible on-time record for Amtrak trains traveling between Mattoon and Chicago.

It seems to be common sense to allow fast moving Amtrak trains to have the right-of-way. Apparently CN does not agree.

Last week I attended a convention in Chicago and traveled by Amtrak. The train was made up in New Orleans and arrived in Chicago 15 minutes early! On the return trip, however, we were 30 minutes late in arriving in Mattoon because we pulled onto a siding so a freight could pass.

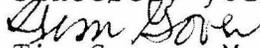
Also, the City of Mattoon has an agreement with Amtrak to remove snow at the Mattoon depot. When we attempt to get equipment to the depot our Public Works staff is told by CN personnel to "get off our property."

According to the Illinois Department of Transportation Bureau of Railroads, in 2013 Passenger "On and Off" Amtrak trains in Mattoon totaled more than 44,000. Passengers come from various parts of East Central Illinois to board Amtrak trains.

Anything you, Chairman Elliott, and the Surface Transportation Board can do to get CN to allow Amtrak trains the right-of-way to increase on-time arrivals would be much appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

  
Tim Gover, Mayor



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Sandra Graven  
Rick Hall  
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