



ILLINOIS CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

September 28, 2012

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

Re: Finance Docket No 35522; CSX Transportation Inc. 007637

Dear Ms. Wood,

I write on behalf of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce in support of CSX's pending request for approval for the acquisition of the "Eldon Line" from the Grand Trunk Railroad. The two railroads have achieved agreement on the transaction. It is our request that the Surface Transportation Board approve the docket item.

The Illinois Chamber is deeply committed to improving all modes of transportation in Illinois. We have been particularly strong and fully engaged in both freight and passenger rail issues for more than a decade. This particular transaction has been a lengthy one and needs to move forward to help us to continue showing progress towards improved freight rail service in support of the nation's economy.

The Illinois Chamber has been especially committed to improving congestion relief for the Chicago metropolitan area. The Chamber is committed to supporting public and private investment in our infrastructure in order to promote a healthy economy. The organization was among the earliest supporters of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficient (CREATE) Project, which this transaction directly enhances.

CSX has submitted that this transaction will save as much as 1 hour per train, equivalent of 20 hours per day, by rerouting traffic over this line. Speedier freight movement will result in less time loss at road crossings. Consequently, this transaction will result in another efficiency improvement to help promote better movement of freight in the region.

This transaction will be of great benefit to the region and indicates added private investment in our region's rail infrastructure. We are confident CSX will dedicate the necessary time, personnel and resources to ensure a smooth transition and outreach in order to improve the capacity to handle the growing amount of cargo that moves through and in our region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Douglas L. Whitley
President and CEO

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