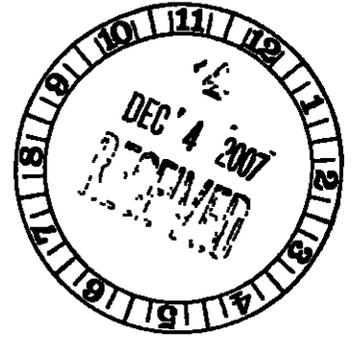


MINNESOTA  
CHAMBER of  
COMMERCE



220896

**VERIFIED STATEMENT  
OF  
David C. Olson  
On behalf of  
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce**

November 29, 2007

Mr Vernon A Williams  
Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 East Street, Southwest  
Washington, D C 20423-0001

**Re: Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation  
- Control - EJ&E West Company (STB Finance Docket No. 35087)**

My name is David Olson and I am president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, the state's largest business association. I have been in my current position since 1991. Prior to joining the Minnesota Chamber, I was president of the TwinWest Chamber of Commerce, one of Minnesota's largest local chambers of commerce. In addition, I served as executive director of the Burnsville Chamber of Commerce and held staff positions in economic development, transportation and energy at the Greater Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce.

Statewide, the Minnesota Chamber represents more than 2,500 companies of all types and sizes, 130 local chambers and several business trade associations on a variety of issues that have a direct impact on Minnesota's economy. Our organization is committed to advancing public policy and job growth strategies that create an environment for businesses to prosper. We excel at offering private-sector solutions to community problems.

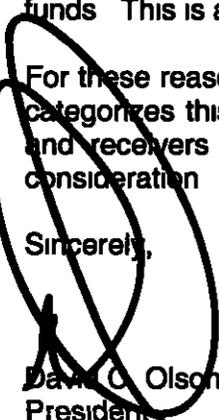
Our members understand that their success depends upon good transportation and a reliable and efficient supply chain. That's why the Chamber has a very aggressive transportation policy advocating for long-term and substantive increase in investment in highways and transit. We led the successful statewide campaign to pass a constitutional amendment dedicating motor vehicle sales tax revenue to transportation.

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As I stated earlier, we excel at promoting private-sector solutions as well. Canadian National's (CN) acquisition of certain assets of the EJ&E is one such private-sector solution that deserves support. As you know, train traffic congestion in Chicago, whose harmful effects are felt all the way to Minnesota and beyond, has become the focus of a public/private partnership project called "CREATE." The goals of CREATE are commendable and we are hopeful that this project continues forward. We view the acquisition and integration of the EJ&E into CN's system will improve the flow of trains through Chicago as well as advance a number of CREATE's objectives. We especially appreciate that this will be accomplished without the use of taxpayer funds. This is a win-win for rail customers and for taxpayers.

For these reasons, the Minnesota Chamber supports the transaction. We also urge the STB to categorize this acquisition as a minor transaction and approve it, so that Minnesota shippers and receivers can benefit from this transaction as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
David C. Olson  
President  
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

VERIFICATION

STATE OF Minnesota )  
COUNTY OF Ramsey )

David C Olson being first duly sworn, deposes and says that (he/she) has read the foregoing document, knows the facts asserted therein, and that the same are true as stated.

Marilyn J. Ruhberg  
Marilyn J. Ruhberg

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29<sup>th</sup> day of Nov., 2007

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires Jan 31, 2012

