



Legislative Committee  
Resolution #08-123

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD  
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**OPPOSING THE ACQUISITION OF THE ELGIN, JOLIET & EASTERN  
RAILROAD BY CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY**

**WHEREAS**, on October 30, 2007, the Canadian National Railway Company along with its wholly owned U.S. subsidiary, the Grand Trunk Corporation, filed an application with the U.S. Surface Transportation Board seeking approval to acquire the EJ & E West Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern Railway Company; and

**WHEREAS**, the acquisition of EJ & E is not a component of the Chicago Regional Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) program, a public-private partnership between Chicago, the State of Illinois, the United States Government, and the nation's largest rail carriers; and

**WHEREAS**, CREATE will invest \$1.5 billion in critically needed improvements to increase the efficiency of the region's rail infrastructure without rerouting massive train traffic through small towns, residential neighborhoods, and unimproved, at-grade grade crossings; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed acquisition by Canadian National Railway Company (CN) would involve shifting a significant amount of train traffic that currently moves over CN rail lines in the City of Chicago to sections of the EJ & E rail lines west and south of the City of Chicago, including a major segment that runs through the County of Will; and

**WHEREAS**, Will County, Illinois has been consistently listed as one of the fastest-growing counties in terms of population growth in the nation for the past seven years; and

**WHEREAS**, with this exceptional population growth come concerns ranging from traffic congestion to emergency services to environmental safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed EJ & E purchase would add to these concerns by bringing to certain Will County communities increased freight train traffic every 35 minutes causing significant increases in congestion and safety issues; and

**WHEREAS**, Will County, Illinois has addressed future traffic congestion and environmental concerns by adopting its 2020 Transportation Framework Plan which advocates public transportation upgrades such as the STAR Line, a commuter rail corridor providing rail passenger service around the outer circumference of the greater Chicago metropolitan region which will utilize a portion of the EJ & E right-of-way; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed acquisition could threaten implementation of the STAR Line; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed acquisition plan, as outlined in the Draft Scope of the Environmental Impact Study, will not include space for the STAR Line right-of-way unless significant capital improvements are planned, approved, and funded; and

**WHEREAS**, some Will County communities will experience a more than 700% increase in the amount of hazardous material routed through their municipalities if the acquisition is approved; and

**WHEREAS**, routing hazardous material through one of the fastest growing Counties in the United States increases the potential for acts of terrorism and the potential for harm to large population centers, whether from terrorism or other unforeseen events; and

**WHEREAS**, the EJ & E line within Will County has a total of 52 public highway grade crossings that may require improvements if the proposed acquisition is approved.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Will County Board opposes the application of Canadian National Railway Company along with its wholly owned U.S. subsidiary, the Grand Trunk Corporation, filed with the United States Surface Transportation Board, seeking approval to acquire the EJ & E West Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern Railway Company as the impacts of the proposed acquisition are hazardous to the health, safety, public welfare, environment and quality of life of the citizens of Will County, Illinois so as to cause irreparable harm.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Will County Clerk shall send a copy of this resolution to the Will County State and Federal legislative delegations, the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board, the President of the Canadian National Railway Company, the Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission, and the Governor of the State of Illinois.

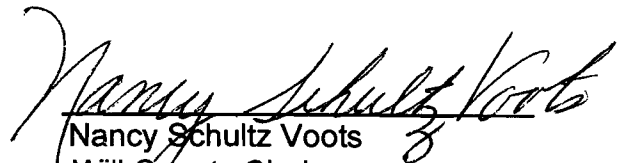
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Will County Board urges the United States Surface Transportation Board **to not approve** the sale of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E) to the Canadian National Railroad.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the preamble of this resolution is hereby adopted as if fully set forth herein. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval as provided by law.

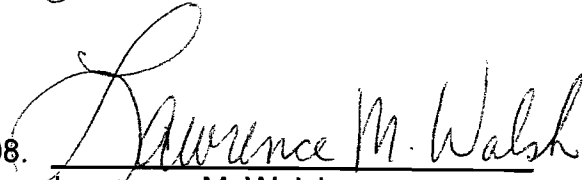
**Adopted by the Will County Board this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2008.**

Vote: Yes 24 No 0 Pass 0 (SEAL)

Abstain 2

  
Nancy Schultz Voots  
Will County Clerk

Approved this 28 day of March, 2008.

  
Lawrence M. Walsh  
Will County Executive