



HR0068 Enrolled

LRB096 10659 GRL 20832 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 68

2           WHEREAS, On December 24, 2008, the purchase of the Elgin,  
3 Joliet and Eastern (EJ&E) rail line by Canadian National (CN)  
4 was approved by the Surface Transportation Board (STB); the  
5 EJ&E is a stretch of train tracks from Waukegan to Gary,  
6 Indiana; and

7           WHEREAS, While many communities in the metro area of  
8 Chicago benefited by the shift in train traffic created by the  
9 merger, many other communities experienced a negative increase  
10 in train traffic; this increase is expected to have an impact  
11 on the day-to-day lives of working families along sections of  
12 the EJ&E, such as traffic congestion and grade crossing safety  
13 concerns, emergency vehicle access, interruption of commuter  
14 rail service, hazardous materials transportation safety, noise  
15 pollution, decreased property values, and increased taxes to  
16 pay for mitigation expenses associated with infrastructure  
17 impact from the purchase of the EJ&E rail line; and

18           WHEREAS, The RTA has expressed concern about possible  
19 negative effects that the proposed EJ&E merger could have on  
20 construction of the proposed STAR Line, a mass-transit line  
21 which had hoped to use part of the EJ&E's right-of-way; and

22           WHEREAS, Railroad transport is one of the fastest growing

1 means of fuel-efficient freight transport in the nation and is  
2 expected to continue to grow; and

3 WHEREAS, Significant growth is expected in rail freight  
4 traffic in the near and distant future creating environmental  
5 and safety concerns for those communities surrounding freight  
6 rail lines; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
8 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
9 encourage and support action by the 111th Congress of the  
10 United States to enact legislation to review the Surface  
11 Transportation Board to ensure adequate federal support to  
12 compensate impacted local communities for infrastructure  
13 upgrades due to shifts in track usage; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That we believe that the federal government  
15 should help fund infrastructure upgrades for communities  
16 impacted by mergers, such as the CN and EJ&E merger, that cause  
17 significant fluctuation in rail traffic for the health and  
18 safety of both the employees of the rail carrier and the local  
19 communities such as improvements to State, municipal, and  
20 county streets, grade crossings, and commuter rail; and be it  
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That we encourage Congress and President Barack

1 Obama to support H.R. 693, the Reaching the Star Act, creating  
2 a Suburban Transit Access Route or STAR line inter-suburban  
3 commuter rail to ease road traffic congestion in 100  
4 communities from Joliet to O'Hare International Airport,  
5 providing safe and reliable transportation options for the more  
6 than 1.6 million area residents living in high-congestion  
7 areas; and be it further

8       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be sent  
9 to President Barack Obama, the Speaker and Minority Leader of  
10 the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro  
11 Tempore and the Minority Leader of the United States Senate,  
12 and to each member of the Illinois congressional delegation.