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Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

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The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott III Chairman Surface Transportation Board 395 E Street, SW Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman Elliott:

Last month, the City of Chicago and the Village of Evergreen Park filed a petition urging the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to monitor and mitigate the increased amount of blocked grade crossings on CSX's Elsdon Rail Line. We urge your careful consideration of this case.

CSX acquired the Elsdon Rail Line in 2013. Since then, a notable increase in the quantity and duration of rail traffic blocking crossings has led to significant traffic delays and pedestrian safety threats. Communities surrounding the rail line should be able to trust in the binding conditions the STB imposed to avoid this trend. Of paramount importance, blocked crossings in Evergreen Park are impeding access to two major hospitals, the Little Company of Mary and Advocate Christ Medical Center.

It is important the CSX honor the commitments it made for the Elsdon Rail Line. We appreciate your review of the petition, and ongoing efforts to ensure the mitigation measures that were agreed to are enforced.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Durbin United States Senator

Mark Kirk United States Senator