

September 22, 2008

Phyllis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Ref: STB Finance Docket NO. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball

As a resident of the village of New Lenox I am writing to you in complete OPPOSITION to the acquisition of the E.J. & E. Railway by the Canadian National Railroad. Numerous issues have arisen regarding the transition. It is supported with evidence upon evidence that this acquisition benefits solely Canadian National. Though Canadian National has issued statements naming the benefits of their take over of the railway, there is no substantial evidence to support any benefits.

This will not relieve freight congestion for Chicago municipalities. If this acquisition took place and trains were rerouted to the E.J. & E railway system, it is only a matter of time before this Chicagoland relief is back up to and then beyond current capacity. CN has no supporting evidence to suggest otherwise. Accurate studies show that there will be a 5 hour and 45 minute delay per day increase in commuting (up from 10 minutes) in my New Lenox community. There are 4 local High schools, 2 of which are recent construction. This alone is fair representation of the growth of our community. Each will be directly impacted as students will be late arriving to school. More importantly, waiting times at each crossing will increase from 5-10 minutes to 20-30 minutes. It has been made perfectly clear that the state has no funding for over passes and under passes in our community. Canadian National has offered \$40 million total to all counties to assist in mitigation of expenses. Each overpass/underpass is estimated to cost between \$25-50 million. The village of New Lenox alone would require a minimum of 6. The true cost to taxpayers exceeds over \$1 Billion. This is not a matter of "IF" this will delay emergency response units reaching their destinations in our growing community. **THIS WILL DELAY EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNITS REACHING THEIR DESTINATIONS IN OUR GROWING COMMUNITY.** American lives will be jeopardized so that Canadian National, a foreign company, can expect to make record profits. This is a true statement. Chicago does not benefit from this acquisition. The state of Illinois does not benefit from this acquisition. The United States of America does not benefit from this acquisition. If you are aware any substantiated long term benefits for either the Chicagoland or Will county areas please inform me of them. Mandate CN to bring forth accurate studies to show long term benefits of the acquisition beyond a 5 year projection. They are not working with communities. They are not working with the Metra train line that runs through downtown New Lenox. There are no measures in place to regulate the number of trains to be added to the rails.

The CREATE (Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency) program cannot be overlooked. It cannot be overlooked. I have the utmost faith in my government

that the opposition to the acquisition of the E.J. & E. railway will be upheld and that the voices of the people of the communities affected will be heard.

We have to learn from our history. For example, there was a time when Global Warming was no one's concern. We did not take the time to look at the impact it would have on our own country. Our country, including myself, did not think twice about polar ice caps or carbon dioxide emissions. This was some problem in the arctic that didn't directly affect us. Well, Global Warming is now our concern. In fact, it is changing business and technology. It is changing the World. The acquisition will change not just my community but the whole country. Ports throughout the U.S. will be negatively impacted. Not just the 280 job losses in Chicago, Il.

My country is facing a mortgage crisis. The government is bailing out insurance companies such as AIG. It's time to put on the breaks. Do what is good for the American people. Stop CN from acquiring the E.J. & E. Railway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Randolph". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

James Randolph

Resident of New Lenox, IL.