

16539

September 29, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball

Surface Transportation Board

395 E. Street, SW

Washington, DC 20423

Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms Ball:

As a resident of New Lenox, a community that will be negatively impacted with the increased number of trains being proposed with the purchase of the EJ&E Railroad by the CN Railroad, I would like to express my concerns. I understand that the number of trains may exceed 30 trains in the future and that these trains may extend 3 miles in length causing over 20 minute crossing delays.

I strongly believe that an impact such as this would severely put lives at risk and add unnecessary commuting times for our residents and our visitors. My children attend the neighborhood public school. Because they have to cross these aforementioned tracks, they will need to leave for school approximately 20 minutes earlier and arrive home 20 minutes later than they do now. How can young children be expected to be on a bus for a one hour commute to school *each* way every day? And again, this is to attend a neighborhood school. This, in my opinion, is ridiculous.

Safety is another concern. The high school my children will attend is just on the other side of the tracks in question. If there was an emergency, our rescue teams - police, fire and paramedics – are located on this side of the tracks. There is no “close” facility that houses our rescue personnel on that side of the tracks. A delay in emergency response treatment could cause irreparable damage, injury and possibly even death. And this just because our rescue personnel were caught by a train. Sure, our village could construct a new facility to house such personnel on the other side of the tracks. But who will pay for it?

I think it is absolutely ludicrous that this purchase is even being considered. After reading the studies that have concluded that this purchase would be detrimental to the communities involved and endanger the citizens of the communities, why is it still being considered?

Please take my concerns into account when you make your recommendation and vote NO to the CN!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandy Wheeler".

Sandy Wheeler