

September 30, 2008

DCTZ

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

Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

I am writing to express my **opposition** to the prospective acquisition of the EJ&E line by Canadian National Railway. I strongly feel that the negative impact this proposed transaction will have on our local communities is immense. The increased number of longer and faster freight trains running through our neighborhoods will result in:

- More accidents and deaths along the rail line
- **An increase in automobile traffic gridlock at rail crossings**
- Elevated pollution and noise levels
- Dangerously longer response times of our Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Teams
- Disruption and/or closure of local business activities
- **Adverse impact on our property values**

Additionally, recent studies by RTA have revealed that a potential overcrowding of the EJ&E lines will also interfere with commuter METRA train lines affecting our ability to get to and from our workplaces in a timely manner.

As far as getting around the area currently, it takes me approximately 50 minutes on a good day to make the 10 mile trip to work. I can't help to think that my tax dollars can go a lot further if they were spent on exploring better means of public transportation. Public transportation in the suburbs (at least in my area) is scarce, if it exists at all. Yet we'll allow even more congestion on the roads, at tax-payers expense?

It would be nice to know that the rail line directly behind my house could some day be used for public transportation, and not a freight super-highway, that has zero benefit to my community, or anyone else for that matter. The purchase of the EJ&E by CN all by rules this out as a possibility.

Furthermore, as a tax payer, I have a real problem spending money on infrastructure improvements, such as road-grade improvements, bridges, etc., that will be needed in our community, for something NOBODY in our community wants. I feel it is despicable that residents have to subsidize a profitable foreign company, to get what in return? Only negative impacts, as listed above.

It is my opinion that CN should be **paying me**, and everyone up and down the line, a hefty sum to put up with these awful inconveniences. I don't see anything that benefits the 'region as a whole' if this deal was to go through. Clearly communities that are benefiting from a decrease in freight traffic are obviously happy as clams. Do they not realize that CN still owns those lines

and would not let profitable freight lines sit idle for long? After all, they exist to make money. Regardless, I feel it is wrong to move the problem from one area to another and somehow try to justify it.

I could go on and on, but I will finish by saying thank you for your time in reading my letter and considering the ramifications of this merger on local communities that are affected. I am hopeful that you will make the decision to vote against this acquisition and to help keep our communities safe for us and for future generations. No to CN is the RIGHT decision.

Respectfully yours,

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