

Phillis Johnson-Ball
STB Finance Docket No. 35087
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

September 23, 2008

Dear Surface Transportation Board -

I am writing to you regarding my concerns over the pending sale of EJ & J Railway to Canadian National Railway. To begin, I am very concerned that this sale will result in serious traffic problems in the affected suburbs of Chicago. I currently live in Plainfield, IL, which has enough traffic congestions as it is, due to the growth of this town over the past 10 to 15 years. There are already enough difficulties getting to the highway during my normal commute to work. On mornings when trains cross at least one of the two railroads on the way to the highway, my commute increases by 10 to 20 minutes due to the traffic back-up. Increased traffic congestion will most definitely occur if more than double the train traffic comes through Plainfield, making it impossible to predict when you will arrive at work or other appointments.

Train delays are always incredible hassles when traveling to events or appointments. Right now, the train traffic in Plainfield is somewhat tolerable. However, the increase in train traffic will cause significant delays in people's lives. The delays will result in less time for our community to spend with our families and friends, as we will be stuck on the roads in mass gridlock.

Furthermore, the sale of this railway will pose serious safety and health problems to our families. More congestion from trains and cars means more noise pollution and more air pollution. Increased train traffic is not safe for our children, who would be faced with dangerous circumstances each and every time a train comes through town. In addition, emergency vehicles will not be able to reach fires and accident sites in the appropriate amount of time, which will result in the higher risk of personal casualties and property damage. As a certified EMT, I am very aware that each and every second could cost someone their life in an emergency. Increase train traffic would be detrimental to the success of our fire and rescue and police efforts.

This increased train traffic is unacceptable, and I am asking you to make the right choices regarding the sale of this railway. Please help our communities by not allowing this sale to take place. Thank you for your time . . .

Respectfully -

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Madden". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Vanessa Madden