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To Congressional.Public.Services@stb.dot.gov
cc
bcc
Subject CN takeover of EJ&E

245 members of Congress echo my previous comments and those of thousands of others. CN should not be allowed to take over the EJ&E until the full economic and community impact is thoroughly studied and understood. CN should pay its own mitigation.

Buffalo Grove and communities on the Eastern line have lived with heavy rail traffic for years. They have already done much of the mitigation. Buildings have been built and houses bought, and assessments have been levied based on proximity to a busy train track. The 200 miles of EJ&E has been lightly used for years. Now separated grade crossing and sound barriers will be needed. Communities face grid lock. Many neighborhoods near the tracks will now have homes that cannot be sold. Property will be assessed at low levels causing hardships for families and serious economic problems for their communities.

No way will the CN yield to the Star Line.

No way will the CN provide service to the many short haul needs of local industry.

Once the CN is in they will continue to increase trains until they reach track capacities on both the north and the EJ&E. You have the data on their long range plans from Port of Prince Rupert - Not the figures they gave you but the ones they gave their stock holders. 500,000 containers to 4+ million in ten years. In their literature they refer to the EJ&E as the Midwest Express from Asia. Discounting hazardous material spills and derailments, that increased number of new container units make it a homeland security issue.

If you give them the EJ&E make them mitigate first and make them dedicate track and time for Star line commuter service. You've heard the people and you have heard a majority of the Congress. A bold new direction is called for and will be applauded by a nation whose tired of paying big business' costs

Jim Johnson, Trustee, Village of Lake Zurich