

JOHN KINYON

September 12, 2008

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

I'm writing to ask that these comments be included in **STB Finance Docket No. 35087**.

I live in Lake Zurich, IL and am concerned by the plans of the Canadian National Railroad to acquire the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway. For many years, the track through Lake Zurich has been used for occasional freight traffic, and I understand that with the proposed sale the number of trains, length of trains, and community impact will greatly increase. My concerns are as follows:

1. We need to add commuter service to this line, and I understand that that will not be possible if the transaction occurs.
2. The CN railroad should take financial responsibility for reduction in property values, and compensate the nearby homeowners who are impacted.
3. Fences or other barriers are needed to protect errant children from crossing the tracks, particularly near residences and schools. In addition, buffers should be provided to ensure quiet zones near residences.
4. First-responders need to be trained on how to handle potential emergencies such as derailments or discharge of hazardous cargo.
5. I understand that freight traffic has priority over commuter rail traffic. This increase in freight traffic could disrupt METRA schedules in nearby communities such as Barrington and Palatine. Guarantees are needed that commuter schedules will be consistent and predictable.

Due to the threat of this transaction, our community has already lost a \$22 million dollar construction project which would have resulted in 45 permanent full-time jobs and \$825,000 in annual tax revenue. Residents, who largely do not benefit from freight traffic through their neighborhoods, should not be subjected to increases in negative effects, nor be expected to pay for mitigation.

Thank you,



John J. Kinyon