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Sarah Spearing
591 Timber Lane
Frankfort, Illinois 60423

September 29, 2008

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

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35087
Proposed Acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad by Canadian National

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I am a resident of Frankfort Illinois, and I formally **oppose** the proposed Canadian National Railway acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad. I hope that the Surface Transportation Board will consider my opposition for the following reasons:

Environmental Impact

If the CN purchase of the EJ & E is allowed to proceed, the impact to surrounding schools, churches and neighborhoods will have devastating consequences. The sound and vibration of thundering, fuming freight trains every 51 minutes will be felt for miles along these tracks. The noise and most concerning, the increased risk of a toxic spill due to the 600% spike in harmful chemicals hauling through town at 45 miles per hour begs the question, "Will the STB ensure that the final environmental impact study addresses the significant negative environmental impact to our community?" I live behind these tracks so this is of utmost concern to me!

The Cost to US Taxpayers

The \$40 million CN has proposed to spend on infrastructure improvements is a drop in the bucket. Who will pay for the rest of the underpasses, grade separations and projected necessary infrastructure improvements that are needed to support projected population growth. Who will pay for the anticipated decline in property values? If the STB approves this transaction, then CN should be required to pay.

Emergency Response

Minutes count when lives are at stake. With 28 trains a day, police cars and fire trucks will be forced to wait with their sirens blaring, and considering Frankfort's population is anticipated to top 55,000, the impact could cost lives. There is only one road into my neighborhood and with the tracks nearby, I'm afraid that emergency response will be jeopardized.

Is Congestion Better in the Suburbs?

Moving Chicago's rail congestion to the suburbs is not an effective solution. Please consider that relocating this problem does not effectively address the issue.

CN Safety Record

It has been 25 years since the EJ&E tracks in Frankfort have received major repairs. Considering CN's reluctance to implement Canadian safety measures, and its employees' "culture of fear," does the STB expect CN to honor US safety requirements? Please give CN's safety record your utmost priority when considering this purchase.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,



Sarah Spearing