

September 18, 2008

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

Ref: STB Finance Docket N. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball

As a resident of New Lenox, a community that will be negatively impacted with the proposed purchase of the EJ&E railroad by the CN railroad, I would like to express my concerns about this transaction. It is my understanding and from all I have read and the meetings I have attended, the number of trains will increase dramatically from 5 or 6 to as many as 30 or more per day. It is also my understanding that these trains may extend up to 3 miles in length. I am concerned for the long delays that will occur at the crossings, the proximity of our new high school, Lincoln Way West, which will open in the fall. I am concerned for the safety of our students and citizens and they need to travel to receive medical services and hospital care at our new hospital, Silver Cross, which is scheduled to be built in the next couple of years. These are not temporary inconveniences but long term consequences that will greatly reduce property values and the quality of life in our area with noise, transporting of hazardous materials, and long traffic delays and backups in our community as we transgress through the area.

I strongly believe that the sale of this railroad to CN will do nothing to benefit the people in our area. I don't understand why a foreign railroad which will import foreign goods at a port in Canada, thus taking jobs from the citizens of our country, and transporting them to an intermodal site in Memphis, should be given the opportunity of buying this railroad without the minimum requirement of upgrading the crossings along the EJ&E line so as to eliminate the hardship of the residents.

Please take my concerns about our community and it's citizens into consideration when you make your recommendation and vote no to the Canadian National purchase of EJ&E.

Sincerely,



John H. Loecke
680 Gibbons Dr.
New Lenox, IL 60451