

12349

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Subject: * Proposed Canadian National Acquisition of EJ&E
First Name: * Daniel
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Message:

The Chicago metro area is blessed with one of the most expansive commuter rail systems in the nation -- a system that has seen substantial increases in ridership with the significant escalation of gas prices in recent years. The proposed acquisition of EJ&E by Canadian National and the attendant massive escalation of freight traffic will have tremendous detrimental effects on commuter rail traffic. As a matter of public policy, we as a nation need to focus on making public transportation an effective option for as many people as possible. Allowing this acquisition and putting tens of thousands of Chicago area commuters at the mercy of a foreign rail carrier with no interest in commuter traffic and a stated goal of maximizing its own profits through a massive escalation of freight traffic would be tremendously irresponsible. That some \$2 billion of our citizens tax dollars would be spent to support this effort adds substantial economic insult to an already egregious injury. Also considering the inevitable erosion of property values near the tracks, the environmental consequences of additional congestion at rail crossings and the likely increase in commuters driving, possible lost lives due to delayed emergency services personnel, I oppose, in the strongest possible terms, this acquisition. Say no to Canadian National.