

16010



9/22/08

I agree with the
opposition to this
acquisition as stated
in the attached
letter from Rep.
Tom Cross.

Marcia Laz
14804 S. VAN DYKE RD
APT. 2115
PLAINFIELD IL 60544

Marcia S. Laz

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



DC
217 782 2373

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:
316 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706
(217) 782-1331

TOM CROSS
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

DISTRICT OFFICE:
24047 W. LOCKPORT ST., SUITE 213
PLAINFIELD, IL 60544
(815) 254-0000

September 11, 2008

RE: CN acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad

Dear Resident:

I have been contacted by several constituents with concern regarding the CN acquisition of the EJ&E Rail Line. This acquisition would have a significant impact to the communities in my district.

The Canadian National Railway Corporation, along with its United States subsidiary, Grand Trunk Corporation (collectively, "CN") filed an application with the Federal Surface Transportation Board ("STB") seeking approval to acquire the EJ&E West Company. CN would like to use the EJ&E railway as a "bypass" around the congested rail lines of Chicago's inner ring suburbs. CN estimates that over the next three years, rail traffic will increase from an average of sixteen (16) trains per day currently to an average of forty-two (42) trains per day. CN also states their freight trains will run up to 10,000 feet in length. That means that one train could be nearly two miles in length.

I stand in opposition to the proposed acquisition for the following reasons:

- Significant vehicle delays at railroad crossings on our already congested roads.
- The safety of the crossings: namely emergency response times as well as the increase in noise, vibrations, and pollution as the trains pass through our communities.
- Neighboring cities and villages that use our roads for their commutes to and from work, school and other activities will also feel the impact.

I am working closely with a group called TRAC (the Regional Answer to Canadian National). TRAC includes municipal and county leaders from Lake, Cook, McHenry, Kane, DuPage, and Will Counties along with northwest Indiana. They are working together to present a unified response to voice concerns related to the proposed acquisition. Ultimately, final approval is up to the Surface Transportation Board (STB).

The STB released the "Draft Environmental Impact Statement" (DEIS). This statement outlines the areas the Board will study to help make decisions about any mitigation that will be required and the actual approval or denial of the EJ&E Railroad sale.

(over)

VERY HAZARDOUS

You may view this document in its entirety on the STB website. (www.stb.dot.gov)

I encourage you to write to the STB to voice your concerns. Without your voice, the STB will not fully understand the impact on our community. **The deadline to comment on this document is September 30, 2008.** You can send your letter to:

Phillis Johnson-Ball
STB Finance Docket No. 35087
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Comments can also be filed electronically on the Board's Website (www.stb.dot.gov) by clicking on the "E-filing" link.

You can also call 1-800-347-0689 to leave a voice message.

More information about the CN acquisition of the EJ&E can be found on the STB's website listed above or on the TRAC website, www.fightrailcongestion.com.

It is important that we communicate the reasons we oppose the purchase of the EJ&E by CN so the Board can make the appropriate decision. Please feel free to contact my office if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Tom Cross
House Republican Leader
State Representative, District #84