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Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423
Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

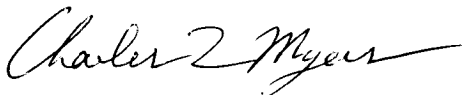
Regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed acquisition of EJ&E railroad by CN railroad:

I am concerned about increased rail traffic blocking highway traffic, especially medical and emergency related traffic, on Route 14 in Barrington. I live in Palatine and my physicians, including heart specialists, use the facilities of Good Shepherd Hospital. If the sale is approved and rail traffic increases, the roads to Good Shepherd Hospital and the many medical offices in proximity to Good Shepherd Hospital are apt to be blocked for many medical patients at critical times when they will be unprepared for the delay. Emergency vehicles such as police, ambulance and firemen are also apt to be blocked in Barrington.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement acknowledges that blocking of emergency vehicle traffic is a genuine concern and that mitigation should be considered.

I suggest that if the sale of EJ&E railroad to CN is approved, it should be only on condition that an underpass or overpass is built in Barrington at the US Route 14 crossing to facilitate the flow of US Route 14 traffic. The same condition should apply to other critical crossings on the major highways in the area. This would expedite traffic for medical and police emergency situations as well as heavy routine traffic.

The \$40 million that CN has suggested for mitigation is an arbitrary limit, likely insufficient, and should not limit actual mitigation requirements. Local emergency responders along the EJ&E should be asked to identify and rank the most critical crossings for emergency vehicles. This would help prioritize mitigation plans.



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