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

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

This letter is in regards to the Canadian National Railroad's ("CN") proposed acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad. My wife, Cathy, my three sons and I have been residents of Lake Zurich, Illinois for the past 16 years and we are deeply concerned about the detrimental impact on the Lake Zurich community of CN's proposed acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad. It is also my understanding that this proposed acquisition will not only negatively impact the Village of Lake Zurich, but 34 other communities which will experience a 480% increase in freight train traffic if this acquisition is allowed to proceed.

After reviewing the STB's draft scope of study, the Lake Zurich Village Board requested that the STB disapprove the proposed transaction in favor of protecting and maintaining the safety and quality of life in the Village of Lake Zurich and surrounding communities. In the event the STB ultimately decides to allow the transaction to proceed, the Village of Lake Zurich has requested that the STB require that CN pay for and implement certain environmental mitigation conditions, without which the transaction's perceived benefits will be substantially outweighed by the detrimental impact on the Village of Lake Zurich and its residents. These detrimental impacts include, but are not limited to: 1) safety concerns due to increased accidents at grade crossings; 2) traffic delays at railroad crossings impacting not only residents but emergency vehicles; 3) decrease in land values in the affected areas; 4) increased noise and surface vibration; and 5) dangers associated with hazardous materials transportation.

Our preference would be for the STB to disallow the proposed transaction, however, if approval does occur, my family and I request that the STB considers the impact of this transaction on the individuals in the 35 communities affected, including the residents of the Village of Lake Zurich, and require CN to meet certain conditions by paying for and implementing certain mitigation measures. CN must be held accountable and if it is interested in purchasing the EJ&E Railroad, it must include as part of the costs of that transaction the foregoing measures.

I. Safety Concerns

We are concerned about an increase in the number of accidents at grade crossings including those located near Lake Zurich High School, which my two youngest sons attend, and Lions Park, the location of the focal point of Little League Baseball games in Lake Zurich which are played during the day and in the evening under the lights in the spring and summer. Due to increased train-created backups at grade crossings, CN should be required to pay for the construction of overpasses and/or underpasses at the various grade crossings located in the Village of Lake Zurich. Also, CN should be required to install barrier walls between the railroad tracks and any residences and school property, pedestrian crossing bridges at affected locations, and access point signal controls. These include grade crossings at Oakwood Road, East Main Street, Old Rand Road, and Cuba Road.

II. Traffic Delays

With an anticipated six-fold increase in train traffic through the communities affected, Lake Zurich residents will be experiencing traffic delays on a daily basis. More importantly, police, fire, and medical emergency personnel will necessarily be forced to take less efficient routes to respond to emergencies in Lake Zurich and its surrounding communities. We are concerned that response times for these emergency personnel may necessarily result in residents not receiving medical care in an emergency in a timely fashion and loss of life could result. In addition, property is also at risk if there is a fire and the Lake Zurich Fire Department is unable to respond. I do not want to risk my family's well-being and damage to my property in the event of an emergency while an emergency vehicle is unable to reach my house because it is waiting at a railroad track for a foreign company's two-mile-long freight train to cross the tracks.

III. Decrease in Land Values

It is not bad enough that home values have decreased over the past year due to the sub-prime mortgage fiasco, but at least that was caused, for the most part by citizens of the United States. However, allowing a foreign corporation to further impact our economy should not be tolerated as we are now faced with a further reduction in property values if this transaction is approved. In fact, the Board of the Village of Lake Zurich had approved a planned \$22 million construction project for an assisted senior living facility and upon learning of CN's proposed acquisition of EJ&E, the developer withdrew its project from the Village of Lake Zurich. This lost project cost the Village \$825,000 in annual revenue and 45 full time jobs.

IV. Increased Noise and Surface Vibration

The STB has stated that it will "discuss" existing or planned Quiet Zones. On March 5, 2008, CN officials made a commitment to the Village of Lake Zurich that it would attempt to maintain the Quiet Zone Corridor in Lake Zurich. If the proposed

transaction is allowed, we request that CN be required to perform a noise analysis study and determine the noise impact on all affected property owners within 500 feet of the EJ&E tracks. CN should be required to install and maintain sound barriers including landscape buffers and/or fencing to reduce noise levels from the trains.

V. Dangers Associated with Hazardous Materials Transportation

CN must be required to provide the Village of Lake Zurich with information on the types and quantities of chemicals that CN anticipates transporting on the train lines. In addition, CN should be required to provide emergency personnel with the referenced chemical manifest along with, at CN's expense, response training, evacuation planning, and response and recovery resources to safeguard Lake Zurich's citizens.

I appreciate your consideration in either denying CN's proposed acquisition of EJ&E or, if allowed to proceed, require CN to pay for and implement the above-stated mitigation conditions. If this foreign corporation wants to operate through our Village on a daily basis, it should be held accountable for the detrimental impact on our community. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael R. Orlando". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael R. Orlando