

September 11, 2008

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

Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

As a resident of Mokena, Illinois, a community that will be negatively impacted with the increased number of trains being proposed with the purchase of the EJ&E railroad by the CN railroad, I would like to express my concerns. I understand that the number of trains may exceed 30 trains in the future and that these trains may extend 3 miles in length causing over 20 minute crossing delays.

I can't begin to tell you how this would horribly affect me, and if it could affect me this terribly, it has to absolutely affect all the other hundreds of thousands of people who live in our county. My 76 year old mother lives with me, and she has heart disease and the beginning stages of dementia. I also take care of my aunt, who is 78, and she lives 1 mile from me. She has dementia, heart disease and diabetes. The only way our fire department and emergency vehicles could get to my aunt's home is by crossing these tracks. If we had to call an ambulance for her or for my mother, can you imagine if one of these 30+ trains is holding up traffic at that time. What if our house or my aunt's house was on fire—same scenario, if one of these trains were in route, it would be on the CN railroad's conscience that lives may have been spared if they had only listened to the people and re-routed these trains to a more rural area. I can only get to my aunt's house by crossing these railroad tracks, no matter what street I take to get to her home. In the event of an emergency, this would be devastating and disastrous. I truly get knots in my stomach just thinking about it.

I live only a block away from the tracks, and I am only slightly concerned about the extra noise and extra pollution this is going to bring. What I am so very worried about is the safety for our children and the elderly, like my mother and aunt. How can this community run properly if we have 30+ trains going each day and causing delays and holding up traffic, etc. These tracks are being used all day long as it is between freight trains and the commuter trains. It seems incomprehensible to me how this could possibly be to anyone's advantage. In addition, the first time that an emergency vehicle attempts to get to someone's home, and one of these trains is causing major delays, you know that's like a lawsuit waiting to happen, especially for a community this size.

In addition, we still have many two-lane roads in a vastly populated and growing area. Could you imagine the traffic back ups if this goes through? In addition, I commute downtown each day from Mokena, and without train delays, my day is over 12 hours with the commute. Can you imagine what the increase in trains would do to the

commuter lines, and what it would do to the people who are trying to get to work each day? It would be catastrophic to say the least. I truly can't believe that this is even being considered by the CN.

I no longer have children of school age, but how would the buses be able to get the children to school on time each day. CN is attempting to add 30+ trains to an area that is no longer rural. We now have very large thriving communities in Will County, and I can't believe that they are even considering doing this. It absolutely makes no sense to me.

In an effort to try and counter the negative effects of the CN railroad, our community would be forced to make an endless amount of upgrades and changes to our community infrastructure. We do not have the money, nor do we have the resources to overcome these challenges. If this transaction is allowed, the quality of life for the hundreds of thousands of residents of Will County will be negatively impacted.

Please take my concerns into consideration when you make your recommendation and vote "NO" to the CN.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen B. Giarraputo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen B. Giarraputo
19522 Maurita Ct.
Mokena, IL 60448