

13999

9-17-2008

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

Re: STB Finance Docket # 35087

From: Mr. Barton Barrow
2603 Poplar View Bend
Elgin, Illinois 60120

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball

I am writing to you to ask you and the other members of the STB to consider the following, in addition to all of the other factors, when making a decision regarding the sale of the E J & E to Canadian National Railway (CN).

The CN has run and is running its freight trains on existing tracks, which have been in place for a very long time. The communities in which these tracks and the trains go through have the infrastructure in place to service their constituents with adequate fire, police and ambulance emergency services. They have had to establish these services either on either side of the tracks or where existing underpasses exist.

These very same services have not been established in the many communities that the E J & E run through because the current freight trains are few and far between and are short in length. To expect each and every community to now build new facilities to handle emergencies on the other side of the tracks without any means of financing new building and overpass/underpass construction and staffing for the new facilities would be a very serious health delimma for those people who are "on the wrong side of the tracks".

For the communities who now have the CN freight trains run through them, do they really believe that there will be fewer trains running through their communities in the future? What is to prevent the CN and other Railways from using that existing track? If the CN truly wants to bypass the City of Chicago perhaps they should consider running their freight trains further to the west towards the huge rail yards in the Rochelle, Illinois area.

The CN offers no benefits to any person, Village, Town, City, County or the State of Illinois. Their motif is to increase their stockholders profits. It has been brought to my attention that one of the other reasons why the CN is so anxious to purchase the rail line is because if they do not then they would need to distribute the dollars set aside for the purchase and distribute these dollars to their shareholders. Now there is your motif for the CN wanting to push for the sale as soon as possible.

In closing I would ask of you to please also consider that the Chicagoland area has a great deal of road congestion and this has not subsided with the current price of fuel. What has been strongly supported by many communities along the E J & E is the use of this track for a commuter personal rapid transit system. This would be the best benefit to the people in and around the existing rail line.

Respectfully Submitted



Barton Barrow