

16442

24 September 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
STB Finance Docket No. 35087
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20243-0001

Deny CN Acquisition of EJ&E Rail Line

I am violently opposed to the proposed CN acquisition of the EJ&E Rail Line and request that the STB DENY the CN acquisition based on the risks and detrimental impacts; which CAN NOT BE MITIGATED AWAY.

First and foremost is the general safety of the motoring public in dealing with a three fold increase in trains per day at rail crossings.

MOST IMPORTANTLY IS THE DECLINED SAFETY OF OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN as they are exposed to increased train traffic in crossing tracks in SCHOOL BUSES as well as in their PERSONAL VEHICLES. This concern is heightened in Naperville since very recently the school district boundary lines were redrawn with the result being HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS MORE must now cross these tracks on a daily basis to get to their newly assigned school.

Additionally, increased train traffic will significantly increase vehicle delays on our already congested roads. While being an overwhelming burden to motorists, this also raises an ADDITIONAL SAFETY ISSUE with SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED RESPONSE TIME FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES INCLUDING FIRE TRUCKS AND AMBULANCES.

If all the above were not enough, the CN acquisition would also result in a significant reduction in the livability of our neighborhoods because of the INCREASE IN NOISE, VIBRATION AND POLLUTION.

I submit the above speaking for myself, but know I speak as well for hundreds of others in my neighborhood, thousands of others in the city of Naperville, and tens of thousands of others in surrounding neighborhoods and along the existing EJ&E Rail Line.

WE DO NOT WANT DECREASED SAFETY.

WE DO NOT WANT INCREASED CONGESTION, NOISE, VIBRATION AND POLLUTION.

WE DO NOT WANT DECREASED LIVABILITY IN OUR HOMES AND NEIGHBORHOODS; WHICH WILL ALSO CERTAINLY DECREASE OUR PROPERTY VALUES.

In summary WE DO NOT WANT DISRUPTION TO TENS OF THOUSANDS OF LIVES, NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON SAFETY, THE PREDICTABLE INCREASE IN LOSS OF LIFE AT TRAIN CROSSINGS, AS WELL AS LOSS OF LIFE RESULTING FROM DELAYS IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLES.

I appeal to the reasonableness of the STB not to let this happen, and request that the STB DENY the CN acquisition based on the above stated risks and detrimental impacts; which CAN NOT BE MITIGATED AWAY.

Thank You



Gary R. Cree
3328 Hollis Circle
Naperville, IL 60564