

September 29, 2008

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

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 350987

Dear Mrs. Johnson-Ball:

As a resident of New Lenox, 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 strongly believe that congestion and traffic will become horrendous tying up main intersections for miles. The large number of trains and length of the trains will hinder the flow of traffic making traffic unable to flow freely which is now a very large concern for our village. If 300 train cars get stalled by a signal that has not cleared this shuts down miles of through streets and no way to get through without driving miles for a clear intersection. If an emergency happened to occur (which happens often) would the train be uncoupled so an emergency may be handled? I think not. What about our children on the buses going to school. Must they have to be late for school or late coming home due to a 300 car train and the traffic involved? The time involved can be from 15 mins. to 1 hour. This will also impact the arrival of the buses being held up making these children late for their first class. This included the high schools as well as the grammar schools. There is a lot of students involved. Parents work hard to see these children arrive at school on time. Will CN take this concern into effect? I don't think so. Why do we have to have our children's education interrupted. Also what happens when the hazmat material is being transported and springs a leak, we'll have to be evacuated from our home and many train cars will be carrying it! What precautions have been made to prevent this or protect our safety? I don't feel much thought has been given to this problem. If they don't care about putting in underpasses or overpasses and expects the community to pay for these improvements saying that's all they can afford that shows CN does not have the welfare of the village. All they see are dollar signs and we as the community can go hang. Big business has spoken and that's that! I have not seen such callousness and insensitivity from a business as CN who seem to be unable to work with the community to solve these situations. The amount that they have offered for the train tracks \$300 million is a drop in the bucket for them. Why should we have to pay to safe guard our children for something that should be put in by CN. We are retirees and live on a budget. How will that affect us? The pollution the noise the blowing of horns continuously will absolutely destroy the home feel atmosphere that has prevailed in our

village. Everything that has been said above is something that we have experienced. I come from an area that was surrounded by trains, the far eastern side of Chicago. I have seen death, emergencies, trains holding up traffic and people trying to beat the trains, noise and pollution. Also has it been taken into consideration the additional use of fuel that would be used under CN's proposed action. This would not help improving fuel use efficiency.

Please take my concerns and consideration when you make your recommendation and vote no to the CN. Thank you.

Sincerely

Florence S. Zekich
Senior Citizen