

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

Sept. 22nd, 2008

Ms. Phyllis Johnson-Ball:

Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

It is clear that the impact of **the proposed purchase of the EJ&E Railroad** by Canadian National Railway **would be little short of disastrous** for Lake County, Indiana for the following reasons.

With train lengths increasing from a half mile to a mile and a half long and the number of trains tripling and even quadrupling in some areas, it would effectively cut off use of Kennedy Avenue, Cline Avenue, Broad Street in Griffith and Taft street in Merrillville—all major North/South thoroughfares.

People in the area need to travel these roads to get home from work, (most industry is located in the north of the county) and to get to supermarkets and major retail outlets (located primarily south of the rail lines.)

Those of us who travel these roads have a good idea of when the few trains come through and often can avoid delays. The tremendous increase in the number of trains plus the doubling and tripling of their length will make that option difficult at best. The likely scenario will be that those North/South roads will be avoided, becoming empty except for local traffic, creating tremendous bottlenecks on the already crowded Indianapolis Blvd. and other roads many miles East of the affected region.

You may be aware that we recently had severe flooding in Lake County. It closed down most of the North/South roads. Even though most schools were closed and less cars were on the road, it took my wife almost two hours to get home to Schererville from where she teaches in East Chicago—a twelve mile distance that normally takes half an hour.

The impact of the Canadian purchase of the EJ&E railroad would likely have that same kind of effect—doubling and tripling the commuting time for a major portion of the half million people who live and work in Lake County, Indiana.

Like Senator Visclosky, we urge the Federal Surface Transportation Board to reject this purchase of the EJ&E Railroad.

With Regards,



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