

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

Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Ms. Johnson-Ball,

I'm writing this letter to urge you to oppose the Canadian National RR acquisition of the E, J & E RR. My family and I live in the town of Lake Zurich which would be negatively impacted by this acquisition. Our town is intersected by the E, J & E line which currently only has 4-5 trains passing through on a daily basis. If the Canadian National has its way with this acquisition, they have said that they will increase the traffic to 24 trains a day that are twice as long as the current train traffic. That would have a VERY negative impact on our community for several reasons.

Safety and Hazardous Materials Transportation

First, the railroad tracks go right behind one elementary school and the high school. If there was a derailment or hazardous waste spillage, our students could be in danger. In addition, our community school district buses cross the at-grade crossings 233 times per day. Increased train traffic will dramatically impact transportation of students and the added trains will increase potential train/school bus conflicts, not to mention pedestrian traffic to the high school.

Transportation Systems

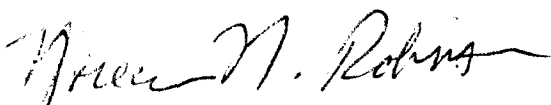
Secondly, the four fold increase in trains would severely hamper the flow of traffic across some major roads that are crossed by the tracks. That would lead to increased travel delay which could hurt businesses and could cause visitors to our town to stay away due to the increased wait times. In addition, the increased traffic would hinder emergency vehicles trying to get to area hospitals. The delays could result in loss of life. So, you can see that this situation is quite serious. If this acquisition goes through, the Village of Lake Zurich believes that train created traffic back-ups warrant CN funded construction of overpasses and underpasses to decrease the impact on our traffic.

Noise and Vibration

Thirdly, the increased train traffic would bombard quiet residential neighborhoods with increased noise and vibrations. This would decrease the value of the property surrounding the tracks, in essence negatively impacting the current resident's way of life and also making it much more difficult for them to retain the value of their property and eventually sell it, resulting in potential financial hardship.

In summary, we can not let big business overrun our communities with bad ideas that will only benefit them and their shareholders and will not enhance or benefit our communities at all. It's imperative that you consider the impact of this acquisition on the surrounding communities and say no the CNN.

Sincerely,



Noreen N. Robinson
685 Sheridan Court
Lake Zurich, IL 60047