

September 25, 2008

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

Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

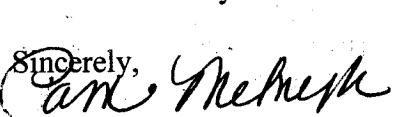
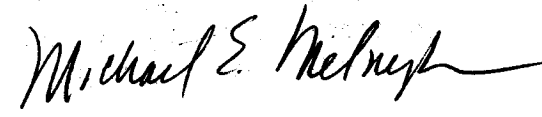
There has been much talk about the many problems that will occur with the proposed acquisition by CN of the EJ&E Railroad. Congestion, train idling, traffic stoppage, impeded emergency vehicle response time, air pollution, noise pollution, and increase in train vibration are all items of concern to many of us. With the back door of our house 43 feet from the railroad property, an increase of any of these items causes us grave concern.

CN's rail traffic has been routed through Chicago for decades. Many of the problems caused by that traffic have been mitigated over the years. It doesn't make sense to have that traffic re-routed to another group of cities for them to bear the expenses of grade separation, gated crossings, etc. so the CN railroad can make more money.

Personally, my wife and I are in our fifties. A few years ago we decided to find our dream home here in Frankfort, Illinois. We found that home at 590 A Timber Lane. We have a 2 acre lot nestled in the woods, with 150 year old oaks, cherry and walnut trees. The one concern we had when deciding to buy was the single railroad track that lies directly behind the property. Our neighbors assured us that the EJ&E railroad, which had been there for many years, only ran a couple of trains daily on the track. We felt safe. With the increase in rail traffic as a result of the acquisition of the EJ&E, the beauty and serenity of this heavily wooded area will be destroyed, not only for us but for hundreds of other neighbors living along the tracks. No one would propose putting a railroad through the middle of a forest preserve, right next to a picnic grove! Seems like that's what we are faced with.

The residents of Chicago knew the trains were there when they chose their homes. Financially, my wife & I stand to lose a substantial portion of our property value. If we thought it best to move, who would want to buy our home with the more than quadrupled rail traffic going through the backyard?

We *strongly* urge you to consider these comments and decide that the acquisition of the EJ&E railroad by CN cannot be allowed.

Sincerely,
 
Mike & Pam Melnyk 590 A Timber Lane, Frankfort, IL 60423