

Meghan Vosloo
30W100 Fairfax Court
Warrenville, IL 60555

August 29, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

RE: Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation-Control –
EJ&E West Company (STB Finance Docket No. 35087)

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

My husband and I have lived in Warrenville for over 2 years; we chose our residence and community specifically for its serene and country-like setting. Therefore, I have been paying close attention to the proposed purchase of the EJ&E Railroad by Canadian National. I attended a recent meeting sponsored by my townhome association's board; the mayor of Warrenville and two aldermen were present at this meeting. They explained the City's concerns, as well as potential changes to railroad traffic should the purchase take place.

I am greatly concerned about several things, as our townhome is within 200 yards of EJ&E's train line:

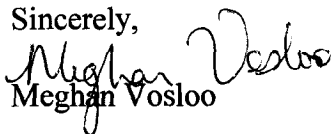
- While it could be argued that the current track utilization does not have significant impact on daily quality of life, the increase of traffic up to 70% would transform our townhome into a virtual rail yard. I am concerned about the length and decibel level of the prospective trains, as guests who sleep in our guest bedroom already state that when trains go by in the middle of the night, they sound like "planes taking off." Our house would cease to be a haven of peace and rejuvenation and become a place we dread to spend time with so many trains going by. As I work as a social worker with emotionally disabled teens, I need my home to be a place of relaxation for the (at times) emotionally taxing work I do. In addition to the impacts to our quality of life, my husband and I are greatly concerned about the affect this purchase will have on decreasing our property values.
- The land directly behind our house includes a federally protected wetland area. How would the trains not disturb or destroy this land? We also live within 5 minutes' drive of several forest preserves, not to mention the wildlife that exists within Fermilab's property (to which we are adjacent). I am greatly concerned about the environmental impacts the trains will bring to our wetland, Fermilab's land, and the surrounding Forest Preserves, especially to the endangered bird species that exist along the track line.

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- It is my understanding that the city's quiet zone establishment along my subdivision's section of EJ&E would be undermined and three years' of hard work would be wasted. Now, rather than obtain a patiently awaited for quiet zone, the residents of Warrenville would have unbearable noise and train traffic.
- How will traffic be accounted for – it is my understanding that with the length of these new trains, should they stop, towns will be cut off from their own emergency services and that given the current laws, this could last as long as 20 minutes at a time (I was told that legally, trains can be stopped for as long as 20 minutes).
- I also understand that the EJ&E sits right next to a natural gas pipeline. With the increase in vibrations it seems highly likely that a gas pipeline could burst quite easily, causing damage to surrounding homes and natural areas.
- There are many older residents who live in my subdivision and I am concerned about the impact to their health and well-being that the CN purchase would have – the increased noise, dust, dirt, and harm from potential spills could greatly affect peoples' health.
- Finally, I wonder how the increased vibration will impact Fermilab's underground accelerator ring experiments.

Because of my concerns regarding safety and health to the people and the environment, I greatly oppose this transaction. It is my hope as a tax-paying citizen that the Surface Transportation Board considers the severe impacts on local citizens and denies this request. Should you require further information, please feel free to contact me at 630.450.5854.

Sincerely,


Meghan Vosloo

cc: Judy Biggert, US Representative/6262 S. Route 83, Ste. 305, Willowbrook, IL 60527
Bill Foster, US Representative/27 N. River Street, Batavia, IL 60510