



THE MACOM CORPORATION

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January 29, 2008

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

RE: Finance Docket No. 35087 - Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Truck Corporation
- Control- EJ&E West Company

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I am an attorney with The Macom Corporation, land owner and developer in Naperville and Plainfield, Illinois. I would like to point your attention to several significant concerns relating to Canadian National's (CN) acquisition of EJ&E rail lines, planned construction and increased operations in the suburbs west and south of Chicago. It is my understanding that CN plans to operate up to 39 or more additional trains daily through residential areas that presently see fewer than 15 trains daily. The negative impacts to the communities located along this proposed route are substantial. My concerns include the following:

- Noise and Vibration – There are sensitive receptors immediately adjacent to the right of way including hospitals, schools and residences. Of particular concern is the Peterson Elementary School near 103rd street in South Naperville. Audible warning system bells would be a near constant in this area with crossings at 111th street and 103rd street. With the school's proximity to the tracks, as well as its location between two crossings, the number of trains crossing throughout the school day would create noise and vibration levels that would clearly disrupt concentration.
- Traffic – In the Aurora / South Naperville / Plainfield area, if we assume an additional 25 freight trains with each taking 5 minutes to pass, this would account for more than 2 hours wait time, in a 24 hour period, at crossings. The delays caused by the freight trains will have a detrimental impact on land uses, the ability to transport students to and from school in a safe and timely fashion, and the ability for emergency response vehicles to cross.
- Safety – The increased rail traffic will have many negative safety impacts including an increase in at-grade crossing accident probability and an increase in transport of hazardous materials and potential for derailment.

The idea of simply moving congestion out of the "dense urban core" of Chicago to the outlying areas just creates a severe environmental cost to the many communities and hundreds of thousands of residents that will now be impacted. I understand that the board will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the acquisition; I look forward to the opportunity to review this document.

Sincerely,

THE MACOM CORPORATION


Michael J. Van Poucke

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087
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