

16661

September 27, 2008

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

Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

As a resident of New Lenox, a community directly affected by the purchase of the EJ&E railroad by the CN railroad, I must firmly object to this plan. I know that the projected train traffic near my home could exceed 30 trains a day and block crossing for more than 20 minutes.

I work for the Burbank Fire Department as a Battalion Chief. I have lived in New Lenox for close to 20 years and have enjoyed the security of limited train traffic. I want to see it stay that way.

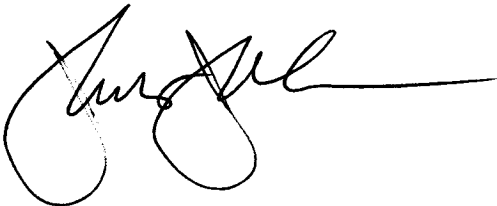
As a career Firefighter I understand the importance of quick response to any emergencies, not only responding to incidents but also the need for rapid transport to area hospitals on critical EMS runs. Blocked exchanges for 20 minutes could mean the difference of life and death not to mention with 30 trains a day the chance for 2 or more trains crossing the tracks in opposing directions complicates response time further.

I can think of many other reasons why I feel the plan is a bad idea but I am confident if you review the plan closely you also will see more cons than pros.

I ask you please to consider the negative impact CN's purchase of the EJ&E. will have on the residence of New Lenox and vote no the plan.

Sincerely,

James K. Johns
1418 Delmar Drive
New Lenox, IL 60451

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James K. Johns', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.