

September 19, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Phillis Johnson-Ball
395 E. St. SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Phillis,

I have lived out in Frankfort now for a little over 3 years, and moved to Frankfort for the farm life and tranquility it has offer. All the congestion is up north and everyone who wants peace and quiet is moving south. Unfortunately, much like everyone else that lives south, I work up north in Chicago. Getting to work involves crossing the railroad tracks running west/east that runs between Frankfort. It currently does not pose much of a problem, but with the proposed plan for the EJ&E line, life will change as we know it today. Forget about tranquility, forget about peace, forget about clean air, and forget about getting to work in a timely manner, just forget about everything that we wanted when we all moved here.

I understand that life involves change, but just once, can't change be for the people as opposed to the corporate conglomerates? People "out south" will no longer get a break from the hustle/bustle life of metropolitan living. In today's day and age, and with how stressful life is, everyone needs a place to retreat to. We are not talking about a resort, we are just talking about home. Now with CN's plan to acquisition the EJ&E line to alleviate Chicago's rail congestion problem, they are just shifting the problem from one area to several others. That doesn't sound like a fix, it sounds like a band-aid.

Has the welfare of human life gone to the "dogs?" With every thing else going on in this world (terrorism, frail economy, corporate corruption, job lay-offs), nothing seems to be getting any better. And now CN wants to take advantage of a quick and painless fix for them, while not considering the welfare of all the communities that this will affect both emotionally and financially. We "the people" cannot afford to pay for bridges for overpasses or underpasses, but CN, whose profits are in the billions, expects us to! Are they insane? No – but they think we are stupid. Well..we are not stupid. We know that there are other ways to alleviate the Chicago congestion, like follow the suggestions of the CREATE organization, or to build a new railroad farther out in the country. These programs would completely solve this congestion for all railroads, not just this foreign one, but CN doesn't want to go those routes because it would cost CN money. They are not concerned about the welfare of Americans because they are a corporate conglomerate who is trying to see what they can get away with and most importantly, they are foreign owned. The economy can't take any more price increases. People will lose their homes if taxes go up any higher.

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And speaking about foreign, again, when is America going to protect America and keep our economy strong and our people working? All these tax subsidies that they are hoping we will pay for the overpasses, etc. will ultimately take jobs away from Americans and go straight to help the export of "goods" made in China.

Please Phillis, if it is necessary for this acquisition to take place, please order CN to pay for all expenses. They have the money, we don't. We will have to endure the physical and emotional consequences, but please don't make us pay for it financially as well. Help protect us Americans – help us feel as if the government is on our side – help us renew our faith. Hopefully, if they realize that they have to pay for the changes to the communities, they will reconsider their position and take the suggestions of CREATE or build another railroad out in the country, while providing jobs for Americans, not take them away.

I thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter. I also speak on behalf of my husband, Greg, and my daughter, Miranda.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michelle Kosek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Kosek
7119 W. Steger Road
Frankfort, IL 60423