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September 25, 2008

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

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35087
Proposed Acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad by Canadian National

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I live in Frankfort, IL, and I **oppose** the proposed Canadian National Railway acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad.

If the STB approves the transaction between the EJ&E Railroad and the CN Railroad, the **cost to residents** will be overwhelming. The CN plans on spending a paltry \$40 million on infrastructure improvements. These tracks have not seen major repairs in over 25 years. The costs of underpasses and grade separations will far exceed this amount. Taxpayers will be expected to cough up the rest. Why should the U.S. taxpayer be expected to come up this money to keep residents safe? We have a foreign company bullying its way into our small town and creating havoc for our residents. 28 trains a day. GIVE ME A BREAK!!

As you know, the CN has a very **poor safety record** in Canada. The Report of the Standing Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities on Rail Safety in Canada stated that, though it was mandated to implement safety measures seven years ago, it has yet to do so. The report also stated that its employees work in a "culture of fear" fearing repercussions if they report safety violations. Is this what we want for our community?

If the CN wants to come through Frankfort, make it pay for the underpasses and grade separations that will be needed to maintain safety and a decent **quality of life** for residents. Our town gets nothing from this acquisition. The railroad makes all of the profit.

Please keep cost to taxpayers, safety and quality of life issues in mind as you make your decision on this issue. These issues are of utmost importance in considering this acquisition.

Sincerely,

Laura Render

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