

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

August 26, 2008

Ms. Johnson-Ball,

I commute to and work in Barrington and am very concerned regarding the EJ&E acquisition. If this purchase were to go through it would directly impact business and the environment in Barrington and other surrounding communities.

Anyone who travels through downtown Barrington knows that it is already congested with car and train traffic. I can only imagine how much more time-consuming and frustrating driving will become if that congestion is more than doubled. Commuters will be spending even more money on gas, stopping and sitting for more trains to pass. The air quality will significantly decrease with the additional trains and idling cars.

I commute from Aurora so I do not cross the tracks on a daily basis. However, I do need to be out and about in the Barrington area and this would affect my personal time as well as business related errands/meetings in this area.

Most importantly, there is a safety factor in this as well. The percentage of accidents will increase significantly if this purchase is made. Schools and homes are located near these tracks and families will be negatively impacted by the presence of more rail traffic.

Please take into consideration the well-being of the Barrington citizens and all surrounding communities affected by this acquisition. It will negatively impact commuters, residents, businesses and the environment.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Wheatley
Honquest Fine Furniture