

13568

September 11, 2008

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

Ref: STB Finance Docket N. 35087

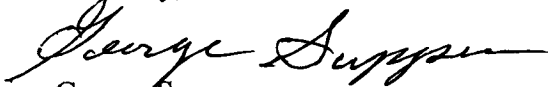
Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball

As a resident of New Lenox, a community that will be negatively impacted with the increased number of trains being proposed with the purchase of the EJ&E railroad by the CN railroad, I would like to express my concerns. I understand that the number of trains may exceed 30 trains per day in the future and that these trains may extend 3 miles in length causing over 20 minute crossing delays.

I very strongly believe that this is a gross travesty for my community. As a senior citizen, this will directly impact me in several ways. First, the ability to be transported to a hospital in a timely matter: these trains will block all north and south arterial roads in my community. If a road is blocked for 20 minutes this could be a life or death situation for any member of New Lenox. All hospitals are north of the tracks. Secondly, CN has NOT offered to help fund the needed improvements to the tracks. That will be left to state (broke) and local (also broke) governments. Since neither state nor local government has the funds for these repairs, we, the citizens will be forced to pay increased taxes to fund these improvements. I feel this is very unfair, since the CN is a FOREIGN company with a profit in excess of 25% last year. Why should US citizens pay for a FOREIGN company to make billions while we pay the consequences financially and environmentally? Our environment will be severely impacted by this sale as well. We will have increased air pollution (caused by the trains and cars waiting to cross the tracks), to say nothing of noise pollution. Our community is building a new high school situated very near to the tracks. It is my understanding that many hazardous materials will be transported by the railroad. I am very concerned about the safety of the children attending the school and the many other schools located near the tracks. Which brings up the issue of CN's safety record...? CN received the LOWEST safety rating. 54% of its locomotives, 50% of its train brakes and 26% of CN crossings were found to be defective (2005 report by the Canadian government). We should allow such an unsafe FOREIGN company to operate in the United States? Enough!!! Please keep the safety of United States' citizens first and foremost!

I hope you will take my concerns into serious consideration when you make your recommendation and vote a resounding NO to the CN. Please do not be persuaded by the wishes of a FOREIGN company to make billions of dollars at our expense.

Sincerely,


George Suppes