

Phyllis Johnson-Bell

16435

9-27-08

Surface Transportation Board

395 E. St SW

Washington, D.C. 20423

Dear Ms. Johnson-Bell,

I encourage you to oppose the approval of CN's acquisition of the ET&E railroad assets (Doc #35087) for several important reasons. With an minimal increase in additional train traffic exceeding 20 trains a day, the impact to my community are numerous:

- ① Increase traffic and waiting times, particularly for 230+ school bus crossings a day in our community of 20,000. It will literally cause gridlock at most times of the day.
- ② Significant increase in the occurrences of accidents, both vehicles and pedestrians, at crossings designed for much less frequent use.
- ③ Significantly higher risk to school age children from concentrations of traffic caused by frequent road closures and as pedestrians crossing the tracks. Perhaps more importantly, the catastrophic risk of derailments of frequent, transported hazardous materials as the tracks pass alongside 3 schools including the village's unified high school.
- ④ Add to this the economic impacts to the community in lost business revenues, decreased property values due to noise and vibration, and the cost to our State/Village of improving the crossing and it just doesn't make sense that CN ought to be granted this windfall.

I appreciate your consideration to this matter -

#35087

Best Regards,

John Thubert

52 Robertson Rd

Lake Zurich, IL 60047