

CITY OF BLUE ISLAND

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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#E1-18987
FD 35522

October 16, 2012

Ms. Diane Wood
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW.
Washington, D.C. 20423

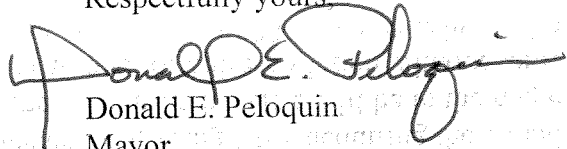
Re: Decision ID# 42707

Dear Ms. Wood:

I have received a letter from Mr. Thomas Livingston regarding CSX acquiring the Grand Trunk Western right of way. His letter states that the increase in train traffic will be in the range of 20 to 30 trains a day. Blue Island cannot absorb this amount of noise pollution without some form of compromise. Our city already has over 150 trains a day over 23 grade crossings with each train passing over a minimum of 4 crossings. The new regulation calls for a train to blow its whistle 3 times at each crossing. This would be 12 whistles for each train and times that by 150, we would have about 1800 whistles a day or 75 per hour. If you add an additional 20 to 30 trains, that means that Blue Island would have another 360 horn whistles a day. Most of our grade crossings are within a half mile or less of each other so the whistles do not really serve as a deterrent.

Both the City Council and my staff believe that we need to have some type of remediation to this problem. Blue Island does not have the funds to pay for building quiet zones at all of our crossings. We are therefore asking for a special exemption to the whistle blowing within the corporate limits of Blue Island. Please let me know what can be done to help with this matter.

Respectfully yours,


Donald E. Peloquin
Mayor

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