

September 30, 2008

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

Reference: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I urge you to make one of two decisions with respect to the proposed acquisition by the Canadian National Railroad of the EJ&E Railroad. As you know, this decision would result in a very significant rise in freight traffic through communities who are not now equipped to deal with what will be intolerable consequences by any number of measures. I would urge you to decide either:

1. Disallow the proposed acquisition of the EJ&E by the CN, or
2. Permit the acquisition of the EJ&E by the CN with the stipulation that, prior to any increase in freight traffic on the EJ&E lines, the CN, at its costs, accomplish full mitigation at all rail crossings which, without above or below grade crossings would create significant disruptions. The DEIS currently states that there are fifteen highway/rail grade crossings, in the study area that require mitigation. I would urge you to understand that there are far more than fifteen grade crossings needing mitigation to assure safety in the affected communities and that a study needs to be done immediately to re-examine this conclusion.

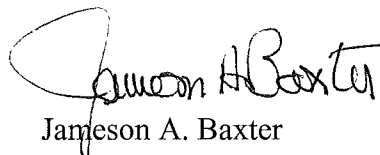
The STP needs to acknowledge that, although this proposed transaction would be very beneficial to the CN, especially if they are relieved of paying for all or a portion of the disturbance it creates, it has a severe net negative impact to the region:

- There are significant safety issues. I live in Barrington. There are four EJ&E crossings on four major roads in the heart of downtown Barrington. Without mitigation on each of these crossings, the impact of the expected freight traffic will seriously reduce our ability to rely on timely fire, police and ambulance response. This will have fatal consequences.
- These freight trains will be hauling cars which carry toxic inhalation hazardous materials and poisonous inhalation hazardous materials which will create an additional safety hazard at the four unmitigated crossings.
- The traffic congestion caused by the significant increase in freight traffic which has been described and affirmed by the CN, will interrupt the course of business and the course of daily life. This has severe negative economic impact both in attracting businesses and families to our communities. This decreases taxes and therefore essential services as well as causing a certain erosion in home values.

It seems unconscionable, in a democracy, to impose such adverse economic impact and a frightening decrease in basic safety so that one company, the Canadian National Railroad, can profit.

I respectfully and vigorously urge you to reject the proposed acquisition of the EJ&E by the Canadian National Railroad.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jameson A. Baxter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jameson A. Baxter

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Reginald R. Baxter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Reginald R. Baxter

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