

16558

Val Pinkerton
393 W. Joliet Hwy., New Lenox, IL 60451

September 29, 2008

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

Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Phillis Johnson-Ball:

Please seriously consider the legitimate concerns of so many citizens who are going to be affected by the proposed purchase of the Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern Railway by Canadian National Railroad. My family lives south of the railroad tracks and the thought of being stuck at a railroad crossing while in need of emergency medical attention on the north side of the tracks is a justified concern. Currently, with the growth of our community and adjacent communities, our roads are congested enough. Traffic often backs up without trains. A life should not be put on hold or lost because an emergency vehicle's response time is delayed, due to a lengthy freight train.

There is also the safety issue for the children that cross these tracks several times a day. In addition, how will this affect our environment with pollution and transporting hazardous materials? We, the American taxpayers, have the possibility of a foreign owned company (or any company) coming into our villages and affecting the quality of our lives. We should not have to pay even higher taxes to try to "alleviate" some of the problems this proposed purchase will bring to our communities, so that the Canadian National Railroad can make their money. This just does not sit well with me or many, many other citizens.

Please listen and truly consider our concerns. We should matter in this proposed sale. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Val Pinkerton', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Val Pinkerton