

September 22, 2008

15971

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

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Ms. Johnson-Ball,

I write to you as a homeowner from the south side of the EJ&E railroad tracks in New Lenox, Illinois, which will come to be known as the **wrong side of the tracks**, if Canadian National is approved to purchase the EJ&E tracks.

Our communities are at risk, our home values are at risk, our schools are at risk, our safety is at risk and our environment is at risk. There is nothing positive to come from this purchase for the residents of the communities involved.

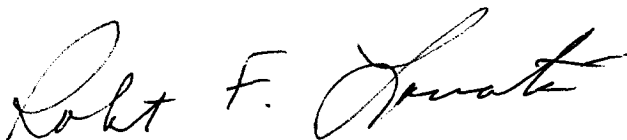
Personally, my family will be cut off from the hospital, I-80 and I-355, as well as the new Malls that we all are anxiously anticipating in New Lenox.

If the purchase is allowed, then please require Canadian National to do the following:

Construct grade separation crossing where feasible
Install quad gates at all at-grade crossings to facilitate quiet zones
Transition from one to two tracks outside the Village of New Lenox
Install barriers or sound walls between the tracks and residential areas
Construct pedestrian signals at each crossing
Allocate resources and address risks associated with the increased hauling of hazardous materials
Provide a reduction of freight traffic to accommodate the proposed Metra STAR line

In closing, I ask one question. Does it make any sense for citizens of the United States to subsidize a foreign railroad?

Respectfully,



Robert F. Lovati