

41 Gentry Drive  
Hawthorn Woods, IL 60047

September 28, 2008

Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball  
STB Finance Docket No. 35087  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

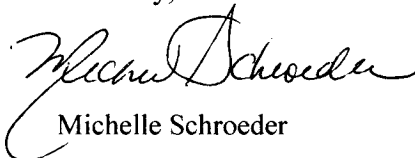
I am writing in opposition to the acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad Line by Canadian National.

While some of my concern regarding the acquisition stems from the obvious problems associated with additional rail traffic -- excessive noise and vibration, increased congestion, and traffic delays, my greatest concern comes from the significant safety risks that will be imposed upon our community:

- Today approximately 8 cars per day carry hazardous waste; the acquisition could result in almost 180 cars per day of hazardous waste. Many neighborhoods in the communities bordering these tracks have private wells. A spill would be disastrous and render homeowner property worthless.
- These tracks border quaint and quiet neighborhoods with residents who purchased such homesteads because of those qualities. This type of traffic dramatically increases noise pollution, automobile traffic and exhaust and overall congestion in an area that has been zoned to preserve a more rural atmosphere (i.e. 1 acre home-sites and no large strip malls, etc. in Hawthorn Woods).
- Increased rail traffic equates to an increased likelihood of train accidents involving pedestrians. Since many of the intersections that would be affected by the acquisition are near schools, youth centers (like our local YMCA), and downtown areas, pedestrians -- particularly children -- could be adversely and even fatally affected.
- Emergency vehicles such as firetrucks and ambulances use routes that intersect with the train crossings. Even a few minutes delay can be significant in an emergency, and delay caused by a two-mile long train -- which can take up to 15 minutes to move through an intersection -- could literally be a matter of life or death in certain situations.
- Canadian National itself is under scrutiny by the Canadian government for safety issues (including defective crossings, train brakes and locomotives). Why would we willingly accept additional freight traffic from a disreputable carrier?

The proposed acquisition is dangerous and disruptive, and Canadian National has shown a complete disregard of our communities' needs and concerns. Please consider denying the proposal, or at a minimum insist that Canadian National implements and funds the necessary steps to ensure the security and safety of our communities.

Sincerely,

  
Michelle Schroeder

  
Eric Schroeder