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500 North Avenue
Barrington, IL 60010
September 28, 2008

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

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I live in the older village section of Barrington with my wife and two sons. The EJ & E rail line runs just behind my back of our property. In general, I am in favor of greater use of the rails for freight transportation. I understand there is a need to reduce rail congestion in the Chicago area and recognize the fact that the proposal of the CN railroad would significantly reduce congestion in the city and closer-in suburbs. So I ask that this letter not be taken just as an example of "not in my backyard" thinking.

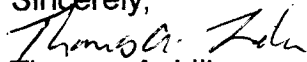
My problem with the CN proposal is the failure to mitigate the impact on the affected communities, and Barrington in particular. From what I have seen, CN consistently refuses to take responsibility for the levels of noise, congestion, and consequent pollution that will result from the vast increase in freight rail traffic. Unless the company is required to mitigate such impact and to bear the financial burden therefor, its proposed purchase should not be approved.

My children attend Barrington High School. I know what the traffic is like going to and from the school at peak times. The presence of extremely long freight trains during such times would result in severe gridlock and greatly increased auto emissions -- not to mention the increased risk to students and others crossing the tracks. Beyond the schools, the passage of such long trains during rush hour would have a similarly negative environmental impact, especially since a single train could block all three major arteries through the town.

The most meaningful mitigation would appear to be dropping the train track below the street level through the town and having the major roads pass over the tracks. Other mitigation could potentially take various forms including reducing the number and/or length of trains, barring trains at peak hours of the day, requiring sound barriers, etc. Such measures should be mandated for Barrington and the other affected communities or the proposal should be rejected.

Thank you for your consideration of these thoughts.

Sincerely,


Thomas A. Lilien