

September 29, 2008

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

Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

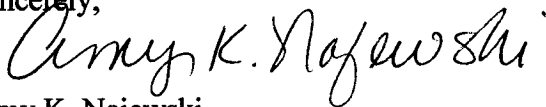
Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I am writing as a concerned citizen of Frankfort, Illinois regarding the sale of the EJ & E Railroad to the Canadian National Railroad. I am opposed to the CN acquiring this route for many reasons. The lack of access to go north from my area to reach the local Metra route to the downtown Chicago area is one, along with lack of access to and from the area for emergency vehicles. We have been told that the delay at crossings could exceed twenty minutes. Would you want to be on the "wrong side of the tracks" waiting for emergency vehicles to reach you in the event of a medical emergency or fire? Our area of Will County has only one viable underpass for emergency vehicles to cross north or south. The safety of children walking to Hickory Creek Middle School is another. The railroad crossing on 116th Street, where the school is located, does not even have crossing gates. Another concern is hazardous materials. Exactly what will the Canadian National be hauling on these tracks that pass through our neighborhoods?

If you look to the north and view the history of Canadian National acquisitions, you will note that the CN has purchased other portions of other railways, such as the Wisconsin Central north of Milwaukee. To my knowledge, the CN wants to slowly piece together a line that extends from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. The CN cares only for their bottom line, and nothing about the citizens that will be affected along the way. Why are we even considering yet another foreign company acquiring a business and letting them dictate to us the terms of the agreement?

In these economic times, we are in no way ready to take on the infrastructure requirements needed to make access available across this right of way. We must say a loud NO to the CN acquisition of the EJ & E Railroad. This is not a matter in which we can try it out for a while and then change our minds later. This affects too many citizens to let this sale go through!

Sincerely,



Amy K. Najewski
Frankfort, Illinois