

16660

September 29, 2008

To: Phillis Johnson-Ball

Re: EJ & E Railway purchase

We've lived in the Village of New Lenox for ten years moving from Lansing, Illinois. We live less than a mile from the EJ & E railroad tracks. We took a lot into consideration in where to raise our family. Top priority was the schools next were safety. Once we moved in we had the added benefit of clean air and a country feeling. Over the years growth happened more houses, schools, businesses, this helped to raise our property value. Unfortunately, growth has not happened to our roadways. The impact of increasing train traffic would be great. There is not an easy way to get around New Lenox from North to South and East to West. The increased amount of trains would force more traffic to Route 30 (single lane) which cannot handle the traffic already. Train safety is also an issue. Who is going to educate the people on train safety? We grew up with trains; we know how dangerous they can be. Long time New Lenox residents and children do not know. I have a 16 year old driver who knows very little about train crossings. Increased train traffic is going to cause people to try to beat the train and to go around the gates. This train travels by schools, how much hazardous material will CN railway be transporting. What is CN Railway going to do about noise and pollution? We hear the trains and their horns in the early morning hours, imagine that all day. There are also no fire departments on the south side of the tracks. What is this going to do to our property value, the way the economy is it is only going to hurt us more. It seems to me that CN Railway is the winner and the affected communities are not. Businesses help to stabilize our property taxes what's CN Railway going to do? We are OPPOSED to the purchase of EJ & E railroad tracks. We hope you take the comments of our village and surrounding villages and towns into consideration when allowing this purchase to go through.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa and Erich Stefans". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Lisa and Erich Stefans